

City of Portsmouth
Sister Cities Blue Ribbon Committee
Conference Room A at City Hall*
MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2024

Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Steve Chinosi, Stephanie Seacord, Ben Van Camp and Bob Sullivan, Mary Carey and Robert Conard. Staff: Christine Frieze

1. **Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day is Sep 5.** Bellringing and Proclamation, with Sen. Shaheen and Japanese Ambassador to the US **Shigeo Yamada**. Committee invited to join event in Market Square starting at 3:15 pm.
2. **Sister Cities Funding** – Ambassador’s Fund contains \$54,000 as of 2023. Suggest transferring to Mayor’s \$1500 annual line item in the budget? City Atty emeritus recommends establishing a new Sister Cities Trust Fund administered by the Trustees of the Trust Fund to cover:
 - a. Communications with our Sister/Friendship Cities
 - b. Travel
 - c. Entertainment and education for visitors from the Cities
 - d. Gifts for visitors from the Cities
 - e. Matching funds for grant applications
3. **Update on Existing and Prospective Sister/Friendship Cities:**
 - **Nelson NZ** – Located in the northeast corner of NZ, north of Wellington. Will prepare a draft using the application the former Committee created in 2018.
 - **Santarcangelo, Italy** & Nichinan students visiting in October – Checking with Joanna Diemer on her supply of City seal pins as gifts
 - **Nichinan, Japan** – Create some kind of outreach to PHS alums who did the Nichinan exchange trips.