

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

March 21, 2024

Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Steve Chinosi, Stephanie Seacord. Staff: Christine Friesse

Organizational meeting to consider:

Nelson, New Zealand interest in becoming a Friendship City as a result of Councilor Blalock's visit and connection with City Council member. Parallels: both port cities on a river, Indigenous (Maori/Wabanaki) and Navy histories, concerns about affordable housing, global citizenship.

Recommendation: a letter to the Mayor of Nelson to start the conversation as a template for identifying shared cultures and concerns.

Funding to support Sister Cities Committee initiatives – applicability of existing Trust fund(s) eg Ambassadors' Fund. Clipper Opportunities Fund

Other groups for collaboration

- Chamber Collaborative – international company members
- Portsmouth Public Library World Affairs group, 6 language groups
- UNH World Awareness Week, Apr 12
- Local food festivals: Greek, BIPOC
- Portsmouth High School global education benchmarks, ESL 9 languages (Betsy Kelleher)

What works for other Sister Cities? FAQs

Meetings 3rd Thursday at 2pm, Portsmouth High School