

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

November 20, 2024 at 4pm

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

1. **Invitation to Portsmouth, England Holiday Toast Dec 17** – zoom info forthcoming
2. **Committee name** — The former Sister City Committee proposed renaming to Sister Cities & Citizen Diplomacy
3. **Status of John Paul Jones quilt from Carrickfergus** – Quilt is properly displayed per quilt guild guidelines but needs label. New labels being created for City Hall display cases – will include a QR code to the City webpage with more Sister Cities information. Also make a list of additional gift locations: PHS and Mayor's Office.
4. **Miscellaneous** –
 - **Sister Cities Trust Fund** to be circulated for any last comments. Language now has City Manager making determination on allocations. Trustees may want to control that though Committee is concerned about delays.
 - **Chamber approached by Nippon Travel Agency** about arranging exchange trips.
 - **Nelson NZ – 2026 will be 185th anniversary of city founding. SC Agreements are Mayor to Mayor – assisting in drafting Friendship partnership agreement as a courtesy to both Mayors.**
 - **Portsmouth UK and Santarcangelo, Italy** – how to grow to Sister City level?

Public Comment: None.

Adjourned 4:45 pm