

City of Portsmouth, NH

Public Art Review Committee (PARC) Meeting Agenda

October 29, 2025, 5:15 - 7:00PM

In Person meeting, City Hall

In attendance – Chris Dwyer (Zoom), Ernie Greenslade, Beth Hartnett, Jennifer Meister, Nancy Pearson, Mara Witzling, Ellen Fineberg, Lennie Mullaney

Staff/City Council: Sean Clancy, Kate Cook

Absent – None

1. Welcome and agenda review
2. Vote to accept minutes of September 24 (with correction below) – First, Ellen Fineberg, Second, Mara Witzling, Passed with one abstention (Nancy Pearson)
 - Correct last name, Ellen Fineberg
3. Updates
 - **Cancel November meeting**
 - **Dedication of Judy Schubert/LizFit painting** – Successful event
 - **Public art inventory updates** (Beth) – End October deadline (soft), send researched item to Beth for completion by end of November or in time for Flash Vote; will add a “Research Pending” section to capture art pieces if research not available for this round
 - **Nebi fundraising** (Ernie) – Current amount raised of \$36K of the total required, \$125K (goal to raise half then proceed); Thank you to Lennie Mullaney for great referral, ask for Committee members to share contacts, if willing/appropriate; Maquette (1/3 size) in process that will be used for fundraising
 - **City Hall gallery** (Ellen) – Planning underway for three exhibits per year with recommendation to start with art on wall with hanging system; Team will research security, lighting, etc.
 - **Rail Trail mural** (Ernie) – The NH Seacoast Greenway Alliance received a request to paint a mural on the rail trail and reached out to PARC for guidance. More information pending.

- **Cabot Lyford curator tour Nov 1** (Ernie) – Highly recommend the event on Nov. 1 from 2-3 p.m.; discussed potential for casting of a Lyford piece of art for Bohenko Park (prices similar to amounts spent on existing art)
- 4. **Spiraling Serenity dedication (3:30 p.m.) and Vito DiBari talk (5 p.m.) on “Will Beauty Save the World?”** (invitations, agenda, assistance on site, dinner with Vito on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., discussion of conference) – Committee members to spread the word to encourage attendance; Rain plan is to cancel the site section and shift to Strawberry Banke reception only; Ernie will send sign up re: donations, e.g., wine and desserts, and set up/clean up; Plaque base is installed with plaque scheduled for arrival on Oct. 31; Thank you, Stephanie Seacord and Jen Meister for facilitating the fast track of the plaque!
- 5. **Bohenko Park Sijia Chen Bench final review/plan for Council** (Chris and Ernie) – Updated artist drawing/design with new color pending and Bob Thoreson working on funding information to present to City Council (50%+ by family, design donation by Sijia Chen, so likely less than 10K to raise)
- 6. **Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Education and Public Art Trust** (Nancy and Ernie) – Discussed timing and agreed it may be project dependent; may reach out to Clipper Foundation to glean knowledge from their experience; discussion about funds to an individual vs a school/organization/etc.; add to the application how it connects to public art; add milestones about workshops/presentations in addition to creation
- 7. **Review Flash vote question options** (All) – Goal of Flash Vote is awareness; Hand in top five choices to Ernie or email them to her by Nov. 5
- 8. Vote to spend \$671 for the Spiraling Serenity plaque – 1. Nancy Pearson, 2. Lenny Mullaney, Passed 100%
- 9. **Discussion re: Raising Awareness** – Rotary, Library, etc.
- 10. **Public comment** – None

Vote to adjourn – 1. Ellen Fineberg 2. Nancy Pearson, Passed 100%

Next meeting **December 17, 2025**