

DRAFT
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
PUBLIC ARTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARC)**

December 17, 2025 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM
Conference Room A

Members Present: Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade; Beth Hartnett, Ellen Fineberg; Robin Lurie Myerkopf; Lennie Mullaney; Jen Meister; Nancy Pearson, Mara Witzling

Absent: Councilor Kate Cook

City Council/Staff: Sean Clancy

AGENDA

1. Welcome and agenda review
2. Vote to accept minutes of October 29 meeting: *Motion made by Beth Hartnett, Seconded by Ernie Greenslade. Motion approved.*
3. Updates/wrap-ups:
 - 2026 meeting dates: Jan 28, Feb 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, Dec 16: *PARC members to look at their calendars for conflicts and let Chairs know.*
 - public art inventory updates (Beth) *85 pieces have been researched and updated. There are six to add. Beth will send out a reminder to those who have signed up to do research.*
 - web page updates (Beth) *PARC members are to look at their bios and see if they are up to date. Beth will request that public art inventory is more prominently placed on the site.*
 - installation of Each One: the Button Project/Community Campus: *Recreation director is ready to accept and install the work. A small reception will be scheduled to reintroduce the work to the community. Artist Sarah Haskell will be invited.*
 - Ruth Blay balance \$353.96: *This fund paid for the Nebi maquette and print materials. It also paid for expenses related to Vito DeBari's visit.*
 - PARC vacancy: *One candidate intends to apply and PARC members are encouraged to ask more people to apply.*
 - annual report Jan review: *A requirement every year, this report will be drafted by the Chairs for review in January before being sent to the Council.*
4. Bohenko Gateway Park: parking (DPW); approval of bench; Endeavor signage; Nebi fundraising/maquette/sponsor benefits (Ernie): *The city will be adding several parking spots and DPW is replacing the Endeavor plaque. The council accepted the Sue Thoresen memorial bench*

and the artist has begun the design process. Additional funding has come in for the Nebi sculpture, putting fundraising at around \$60,000. The maquette will be available by the next meeting. Ernie asked committee members to think about other possible donors and shared a list of sponsor benefits.

5. Spiraling Serenity; debrief dedication/Vito's talk; potential festival of AI and Arts 2027: *Committee agreement on the success of the art reception and artist talk given by Vito De Bari. His idea for an Art and AI international conference in Portsmouth is well received as a potential activity but pushed back a year to 2027.*

6. Finalize Flash Vote: *Final edits and suggestions made to the 5 questions. The City will send out the flash vote for PARC to gather information.*

7. Review of proposed temporary art installation: Seacoast Outright Mural: *Richard Haynes and JoAnne Coles presented a temporary mural for consideration of display in a public space. It was created after a community conversation on diversity and belonging. The mural, which many people worked on together, could be placed at Community Campus, in the City Hall gallery, and at the High School. PARC went through the criteria process and approved it for recommendation to the City Council.*

8. Launch of Request for Proposals for Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Education and Public Art Trust (Nancy and Ernie): *With final edits complete, the next step is to gather a list of names and circulate the application and supporting materials. PARC members can send their contacts to Jen Meister who will compile a complete document.*

9. Potential Trolls project: *Deputy City Manager Carl Weber has proposed bringing a [Thomas Dembo troll](#) to Portsmouth. This would be the first in New Hampshire. There are trolls in Maine and Rhode Island. The cost is around \$150,000-\$300,000, and Carl said he would seek corporate sponsors. PARC will await his updates.*

10. Public comment: No members of the public spoke.

Motion to adjourn made by Ellen Fineberg and seconded by Jen Meister.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson

