

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

February 26, 2025 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room A

**Members Present:** Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade; Beth Hartnett, Jen Meister, Alyssa Murphy; Lennie Mullaney, Robin Lurie Meyerkopf; Nancy Pearson, Mara Witzling

**Absent:** Ellen Fineberg

**City Council/Staff:** Sean Clancy, Councilor Kate Cook

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and agenda review
2. Vote to accept minutes of the January 29 meeting. *Motion made by Lennie, seconded by Mara. Motion approved.*
3. Election: Secretary. *No volunteers came forward, so a suggestion was made to take turns each meeting. Nancy will create a schedule in advance to share in a Google doc.*
4. Updates:
  - Salt Piles ceremony (Sean) *Will take place during the March 3 city council meeting, at the start of the meeting.*
  - Peirce Island update (Sean)- *Engineering plans, soil testing, etc. has taken place. Fabrication has begun.*
  - Inventory postings/publicity- *It is live on the website. Suggestion was made for it to be easier to find.*
  - Annual report- *Nearly ready to present to the Council.*
  - Connecting with DPW re: Vaughn Mall- *Sean will set up a meeting.*
  - Follow up Cabot Lyford (March 27 opening of exhibit) *Sarah Robbits Terry (PHS) had a great conversation with the Public Art Archive and it looks like they (PHS) may be able to access the functionality needed to create a walking tour within their website - which is also mobile responsive.*

5. Review: Ona Judge mural- *Presentation will be postponed until March meeting, but essentially it will be a realistic mural on panels affixed to the side of the NH Black Heritage Trail building on Court Street. Suggestion that committee members view the site in advance of next meeting.*

6. Criteria for Temporary Art (Jen) *During a presentation by an artist, PARC realized we do not have criteria for accepting temporary public art projects. A draft to create these criteria was presented to the committee. Discussion around definition of temporary (length of time) as well as assessing appropriateness while respecting free speech. We may want to invite a representative from the legal department to weigh in. Decision was that we may need to judge temporary art on a case-by-case basis.*

7. Summary of Guidelines for new Education and Public Art Trust (Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Trust) (Ernie and Nancy) *Focus on K-12 students living in or attending school in Portsmouth. Fund public art projects and interpretations. Learning is a focus. Separate must-do requirements from other guidelines. A second draft will be sent back to PARC for review. Thinking is to align announcements with the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Ernie will meet with director of library for additional feedback.*

8. Recommend location(s) for Each One: the Button Project- *Community Campus, which is managed by the Recreation Department. Have a new unveiling and ask the artist to come and re-explain the piece and why she made it. Add interpretive signage for it.*

9. Planning for Percent-for-art for Hanover Garage- *\$68,000 available for public art is available for a project at the High-Hanover Garage. Garage renovations will be completed in fall of 2025. Consideration for new private development and walkway behind the existing building. Suggest that committee members visit the garage in advance of discussion to think about location.*

10. Insurance Requires Appraisals for Public Art- *PARC will research possible public art appraisers keeping in mind the city would likely not replace a full piece of damaged art and certainly not sell an artwork..*

11. Public comment

*Action items: Members go visit the Community Campus, the NH Black Heritage Trail and the Hanover Garage sites.*

*Motion to adjourn made by Lennie and seconded by Alyssa. Motion passed.*

***Next Meeting: March 26, 2025***

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson