

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

April 30, 2025 - 5:15 – 6:45 PM

Conference Room A

Members Present: Chris Dwyer, Ellen Fineberg, Ernie Greenslade, Beth Hartnett, Jen Meister, Lennie Mullaney, Mara Witzling

Absent: Robin Lurie Meyerkopf, Alyssa Murphy, Nancy Pearson

City Council/Staff: Sean Clancy, Councilor Kate Cook

AGENDA

1. Welcome and agenda review

2. Vote to accept minutes of the March 26 meeting. *Motion made by Ellen, seconded Lennie. Mara sought clarification to discussion regarding the Button Project placement. Motion approved as amended.*

3. Updates:

--Peirce Island update. *Sean reported that progress was being made. Sections are now being welded together and the work will be trucked from Texas in its completed spiral configuration, There is at least a month's work left to complete, including the painting, and some details that need to be worked out. They will document installation as will Portsmouth. A dedication ceremony will take place after Vito returns to the US at the end of September. The possibility of adding benches was raised.*

--Ona Judge HDC May meeting. *The group working on the proposal decided to delay its presentation to the HDC to the May meeting in order to clarify issues related to the panels. They appreciated our input and enthusiasm.*

--Cabot Lyford Exhibit. *Chris announced that it has opened at the Portsmouth Historical Society, that it's a beautiful exhibit with a fine catalogue, and that it will be open until 2 November.*

--African Burying Ground rehabilitation of artwork. *All work has been scheduled. Jerome Meadows, the original artist has recreated the tiles which will be installed by a local artist. The bronze will be rehabilitated by the firm Daedelus and the tiles will be reprinted. The monument was installed 10 years ago.*

--Maintenance of Bohenko Park -*Ernie noticed that silver was coming off the cod and Terence had already repainted them. Also, the Endeavor plaque has been reinforced.*

4. Recommend location for Fairy House sculpture. *Debra Smith and Mary Thomas from FOSE joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss possible locations for the now-completed Fairy House sculpture. Chris reported that she had spoken to Corin who recommended a few locations – the South Meeting House, the corner of Marcy and Gardner, the open space where Marcy meets South St. These and other locations, such as Haven Park, Prescott Park, and Peirce Island (“a woodland location”) were discussed. Debra offered to photograph the completed sculpture in some of these locations so that we can view and discuss at our next meeting.*

5. Discussion of Guidelines for Temporary Art (Jen and Mara). *Jen and Mara led a discussion of the revised document. The group suggested further clarifications regarding the possible transition of temporary to permanent and PARC’s role in oversight and a further revision will be presented in the next meeting.*

6. Bohenko Gateway Park next steps -*Ernie led a discussion concerning the Street Life event in August, a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, as a process for raising funds for a second piece. She suggested that fund-raising would be more effective around specific work. To that end she suggested a reconsideration of the top 3 runners-up of the Endeavor. After discussion, the committee agreed that it was interested in entertaining that possibility. Ernie will consult with runners up and with their permission will share their RFP’s. At our next session we will go into Executive Session to consider and discuss the proposals in light of our guidelines. How to go about fund-raising for this project was also discussed. We also discussed whether we all felt that a maritime theme, broadly defined, would again be relevant. Additionally, Chris announced that Bob Thoresen wants to contribute to the construction and installation of an artistic bench by the Endeavor artist Sijja Chen in honor of his wife, Sue. We looked at some samples of benches she has created and discussed their potential installation*

7. Rotating art exhibit for lobby of City Hall Chambers – *How do we want to make this mandate from the City Manage work? A discussion of how to deal with security (install a camera), of the length of time each exhibit would be up, of the kinds of art that would be exhibited, of potential partners such as the Portsmouth Library, the New Hampshire Art Association, Art Around Town.*

8. Planning for Percent-for-art project at Hanover Garage: *We should be thinking of possible approaches. Chris mentioned the project at the Sarasota Garage in which each floor was painted according to a different theme. Will be discussed in depth at next meeting.*

9. Public comment- *Nobody spoke at public comment.*

Motion to adjourn made by Lennie, seconded by Jen.

Next meeting May 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mara Witzling