

City of Portsmouth, NH

Public Art Review Committee (PARC) Meeting Agenda

September 24, 2025, 5:15 - 7:00PM

In Person meeting in School Board Conference Room

In attendance: Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade, Beth Hartnett, Robin Laurie-Meyerkopf, Jennifer Meister, Lennie Mullaney, Nancy Pearson (zoom) , Mara Witzling

Staff/ City Council: Sean Clancy

Absent: Ellen Fineburg, Kate Cook (at City Council meeting)

1. Welcome and agenda review

2. Vote to accept minutes of August 27 First: Jen Meister, Second: Robin LM

3. Updates

-North end monument dedication, was well attended, more landscaping to come.

-Fairy House Reception- Ernie present, photo opp w dignitaries, installers met w Sean, date of permanent installation TBD

- NH Culture Summit- not heavily attended

-Cabot Lyford panel - Ernie went to tour, Robin said tour done every Friday (free on First Friday); Ernie went to panel discussion. Nov 2 is final day.

-White Heron new mural - refreshing Mr. Kim's tiger mural.

-Positive Street Art creating Ona Judge, panels to be done over the winter. Currently doing new mural at Cali B Restaurant on Lafayette Rd.

-Vaughn Mall advocacy response- plenty of time to consider PARC and public feedback

-Frame for J. Schubert artwork costs \$195. PARC will pay cost. 1 Mara 2 Beth

4. New Business

-Bohenko Park, site of Sija Chen's Endeavor, bench proposed to be designed and built by Ms. Chen. Sponsored by Bob Thoresen to honor his wife Susan Thoresen.

Bob met with Sija and requested a bench similar in design to Endeavor, 8' length x 36" tall x 40" wide, shaped like letter "S". Stainless steel, painted aqua, Sue's favorite color. Anti-graffiti coating. Title "A Space for Memory". Will have a plaque. Sidewalk 11 ft wide. Bench will be bolted to concrete base but handicap accessible. We need installation estimate for budget (maybe \$5000.) Bob will get weight. One side faces sculpture; other side faces water. Closer to water side across from sidewalk. Twelve

weeks start to finish. Total cost \$20,000. Bob will give \$10,000. His family to donate additional funds.

PARC must review and approve it. Talk to public works. Recommendation goes to city council. Questions on maintenance, surface, lighting. Possibly present to CC review by Oct 6 or the following meeting. Need time for installation estimate, public works.

5. "Spiral Serenity" dedications update. Vito Di Bari wants to be at dedication. Maybe do it at Strawberry Banke. Nov 3 or 6. (Elections 11/4). Best date Thursday, Nov. 6, at 3:30. Dedication at site with plaque, walk to Strawberry Banke, Vito lecture starts at 5:00 PM. City event, perhaps SB can add publicity. Vito asked for travel money, hotel room 1-2 nights. Robin suggested Massimo connection. Italian school kids.

6. Nebi - Ernie working on donations, how much is raised so far, \$19,500 from @ 9 - 10 donors, need \$105,000 more. Pledge cards and materials available. Maquette being worked on now.

7. Plaques for public art - goal: standardized and easily implemented. Began by surveying existing outside sculpture pieces. Current prototypes, vendor already connected and vetted by city. Does national parks.

high pressure laminate on metal base, DPW knowledge. One on Pierce Island. Dark green background, white lettering. Size 18"x18" or 18" x 24". Where does QR code go? Link to PARC city webpage. Or use URL webpage. Do we want to say "% for Art"? Costs unknown; installation costs? Metal pole into the ground. 48" high, at 30% angle; easy to read standing.

Title, Artist, Date, Artist statement, More information QR code

Next step: Stephanie Seacord for city

8. Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Education and Public Art Trust

Committee members are asked to review the draft materials related to the trust and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

A. Proposed timeline month 1 - 8 (or 18)

B. Outreach plan to attract applicants; goal to ensure diverse, high quality applicants, community network, NGO, youth org., publicity, equity inclusion.

C. Draft Application, artist info, project summary, educational impact.

First time, maybe a small number of applicants, start with a letter of intent before applicant does too much work.

9. Flash vote opportunity. Monte suggested we invite public to participate in yes no flash votes. Engage the city to participate more. Think of questions. Send to Beth.

10. Public Comment None. Vote to adjourn: 1. Beth 2. Jen.

Next meeting: October 29 at 5:15