

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sister Cities

Thursday August 21, 2025, 4 pm, City Hall Conference Room A & Zoom

For the Zoom recording:

https://youtu.be/0kD06b_FlG0?si=UgJzzG_R4exQEvCo

MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Christine Friese, Bob Sullivan, Mary Carey Foley, Robert Conard, Stephanie Seacord

1. Old Business:

- a. Update on Sister City Fund/ Next Steps -- Donation use specified by donor and checked by City Manager that allocations are in keeping with the spirit and goals of the Sister City Committee. The language might be that simple or could be specified in more detail. Then there would be an inventory of donations to be applied to needs specific to the Sister City. Donor letter template would list all of the Sister/Friendship Cities and some check boxes in accordance with committee goals for uses. The City Council will accept all donations. On a motion by Stephanie Seacord, seconded by Robert Conard the Committee voted to write a proposal to create a Sister City special revenue fund. There is a separate Sister City Ambassador Trust Fund not under the direction of the Committee.
- b. Nichinan
 - i. Mayor's delegation visit Sep 3-6. Traveling with hired van and translator.
 1. Portsmouth Peace Treaty Anniversary Committee film, Wednesday Sep 3 at 6 pm, Levenson Room, Portsmouth Public Library
 2. Mayor's Reception, Thursday Sep 4 at 10:30 am Council Chambers
 - a. Gifts and refreshments for visitors -- clocks paid from Mayor's Fund. Councilor Blalock read a letter* from the Mayor thanking the Committee for its work. Listing gift options for future.
 - b. Lunch at Wentworth By the Sea. Visit to Portsmouth High School.
 3. Bellringing, Friday Sep 5 at 3:15 pm in Market Sq. (in front of Piscataqua Savings Bank)
 - ii. Student visit Oct 11-18, 18 students
- c. Santarcangelo
 - i. Student visit Oct 4-11, 18 students
 - ii. Lighting art – next steps. Mayor's preference is to incorporate it into the Vaughan Mall redesign. Committee will refer that idea to PARC.
- d. Letter to Szolnok, Hungary -- Sent. No reply yet.
- e. Portsmouth UK tour – Chamber update at next meeting.
- f. Update on Nelson, New Zealand -- Mayor McEachern has approved and will send invitation to NZ.

- a. Review and approval of minutes from past meetings -- drafts distributed to Committee for next meeting.
- b. Contact from Carrickfergus(East Antrim), Northern Ireland re: visit to Portsmouth Oct 9-10. Alan Magee son of Noel Magee, City Council, July 1994. Reserved Portsmouth Room for 5 pm on Oct 9.

3. Public Comment