

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH**  
**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sister**  
**Cities**

**Wednesday September 24, 2025, 4 pm**

**City Hall Conference Room A**

**and via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attending: Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Christine Friese, Bob Sullivan, Ben Van Camp, Mary Carey Foley, Steve Chinosi, Robert Conard, Stephanie Seacord. Guests: Nathan Delaney, Chris Nartenano, Laura LaVallee

1. Old Business:
  - a. Update on Sister City Fund/ Next Steps – Once the fund is established it will be important to educate the community about the Sister City relationships to build fund awareness and donations.
  - b. Nichinan
    - i. Mayor's visit Sep 3-6 RECAP
    - ii. Upcoming student visit -- 16 students from Nichinan arrive around 8 pm on Friday, October 10 and depart around 8 am Thursday, October 16. Portsmouth High School assembly on Oct 14 at 2pm where the Mayor will distribute gifts. They will visit the Treaty exhibit on Oct 15 in the morning.
    - iii. There are no exchange visits planned for 2026. Will resume in 2027.
    - iv. SURVEY – Participants need more context – Nichinan students know more about the Treaty because it and Baron Komura are such an important part of their history.
  - c. Santarcangelo
    - i. Student visit -- 17 people (including the teachers — but no Mayor this time) will be in Portsmouth Oct 6-12. Portsmouth High School teachers and host families will host reception, hoping for assistance from the City to reciprocate the hospitality they experienced in Italy. Would it be possible to host a buffet at City Hall Portsmouth Room or Library Levenson Room for 55-60. Estimated cost \$2500. and will visit City Hall on Thurs Oct 9 or Fri Oct 10

- ii. Lighting art – Councilor Blalock will ask Mayor McEachern about his thoughts for the installation location.
  - iii. For future consideration: the Portsmouth developer whose property contains the new North End neighborhood sculpture owns one of the rooftop condos and has hosted small gatherings. He may be open to doing something for the Santarcangelo visitors.
- d. Carrickfergus (East Antrim), Northern Ireland re: visit to Portsmouth and lunch on Oct 10. Alan Magee son of Noel Magee, City Council, (signed agreement July 1994)
  - e. Review and approval of minutes from past meetings – next meeting.
- 2. New Business -- none
  - 3. Public Comment – none

Next meeting: October 1, 2025 at 4 pm.

DRAFT