

Minutes – March 20, 2023 -- Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofits Committee

Russ called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM

Members in attendance: Russ Grazier, Genevieve Aichele, Larry Yerdon, Councilor Kate Cook, Barbara Massar, Tina Sawtelle, Jason Goodrich, Ben Van Camp. Remotely: Robin Albert, Beth Falconer, Courtney Perkins, Loren Rosen
Not present: Nihco Gallo, JerriAnne Boggis, Martha Clark. Also attending, co-chairs of the new Cultural Plan Subcommittee: Karen Rosania, Adam Chase, Rich Clyborne (Gundalow), Ed Simeone. PNH400 sculpture project: Sijia Chen and Michael Park

Non-members in attendance: Sean Clancy, Stephanie Seacord (recording secretary)

August, October, December 2022 and January, February 2023 minutes remain held over for approval.

1. Introduction to Sijia Chen selected by the PNH400 Legacy Sculpture Review Team as the finalist to lead a community engagement project and create the first maritime-themed sculpture for the Bohenko Gateway Park sculpture garden.

Sijia explained that her process is to seek input about Portsmouth's maritime culture by asking a series of questions to community groups, schools, arts/culture/history organizations during her visit Mar 19-25, in webinars and through the website. She brings the parallels between the small coastal city in China where she grew up and Portsmouth to 4th century papercut to create "Endeavor" -- a site-specific installation. **She invited community members to attend the public visioning session at the Portsmouth Public Library on Mar 21 and to provide comments, images and their papercut designs via the website: <https://www.endeavorforportsmouth.com/>**

The website will document the entire design process and the collaboration between Sijia and the people of Portsmouth "to create a legacy that outlasts us all."

2. AFTA Update (Loren Rosen):

Organizational survey (financials, etc.)

- Custom links to organizational surveys were sent by AFTA Feb 27-28. Check spam folders. Committee is getting all of the 50 links from Ben Davison AFTA admin -- and can supply to those who missed them. Received so far: Seacoast Rep, Portsmouth Historical Society, Pontine, Star Island and Pro Portsmouth.
- Drafted email letter from City Manager, Sean Clancy and committee co-chairs Russ and Barbara stressing the importance of participating in the organizational surveys.
- Due Mar 31 (extension possible)
- Will provide bullet points for telephone calls by members of Arts & Nonprofits to stress important of participating.

Audience intercept survey

- 800 completed but want to get to 1000 by the end of the surveys Apr 30. Encourage organizations to continue. More audience data will be valuable
- Lauren Rosen may be available to administer surveys at your venue. lrosen2015@gmail.com
- Surveying can continue through May (Extended deadline.)

Reporting (data in Oct 2023)

- Meeting of AFTA Committee and Russ with Monadnock Council to discuss ways to communicate survey results
- Randy Cohen, AFTA visit Jan 11-12, 2024

- 3. Cultural Plan and Subcommittee – co-chair Karen Rosaria reported the subcommittee is making good, steady progress,**
- a. They have defined a scope of work for the RFP for a consultant, now with Sean.**
 - b. Identifying tasks ‘before consultant,’ ‘during consultant’ and ‘after consultant’ they have formed five working groups (plus an IT group):**
 - Reviewing 2002 plan for what worked/what didn’t as well as best practices from other municipalities.
 - Reviewing ArtSpeak, what worked/what didn’t and structures/metrics other municipalities have used for the arts councils.
 - Steering Committee to manage the plan.
 - Communications team to introduce the community to the members of the subcommittee and to the consultant, and to coordinate outreach events and messaging.
 - What does community engagement look like? What role will members of the AFTA Committee play when they can shift their attention to volunteer training.

All five working groups are reporting at the Subcommittee’s monthly meetings and holding zoom meetings.

Anyone who initially expressed interest in working on the Cultural Plan but now cannot meet the commitment of the Committee should let Karen know as soon as possible so the alternate members can be substituted.

Russ noted that by summer the main focus of the Portsmouth Arts & Nonprofits Committee will be on producing the Cultural Plan before the end of this Council’s term and before the sunseting of the committee. It is an aggressive schedule – other municipalities average 24 months – but doable.

4. Other Business

- Chamber Collaborative Tourism Summit, Mar 27, program 8:30-11:30 am. Updates from Arts & Nonprofits, PNH400, NH Tourism, Greenways and the City.
- Marcy Street Collaborative meetings to support and cross-promote: Players Ring, Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth Historical, Black Heritage Trail of NH, Strawberry Banke, Puddle Dock restaurant – to increase awareness of the neighborhood.
- Councilor Cook thanked the Marcy Street group for their support of the Friends of the South End and Fairy House Tours. She also noted that the first meeting of the Public Arts Review Committee takes place next week. Aimed at using the ArtSpeak public art review process and 2015 public art policies to review projects, locations and the public art trust fund.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm. **Next meeting, Monday Apr 17 at 12 noon.**