

Minutes – April 17, 2023 -- Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofits Committee

Russ called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

Members in attendance: Russ Grazier, Genevieve Aichele, Councilor Kate Cook, Jason Goodrich, Ben Van Camp, Jeff Cooper (Cultural Plan subcommittee). Remotely: Robin Albert, Tina Sawtelle, Renee Loren Rosen Not present: Barbara Massar, Beth Falconer, Courtney Perkins, Nihco Gallo, JerriAnne Boggis, Martha Clark.

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

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

1. AFTA Update (Robin Albert):

Organizational survey (financials, etc.)

- 40 organizations:
- 15 completed.
 - Pro Portsmouth
 - Prescott Park Arts Festival
 - Dance Hall Kittery
 - 3S Artspace
 - Portsmouth Historical Society
 - NH Theater Project
 - Star Island Corporation
 - Strawberry Banke Museum
 - Pontine
 - Portsmouth Pro Musica
 - Gundalow
 - PMAC
 - Seacoast Repertory Co.
 - The Music Hall
- 3 partially complete
 - Museum of New Art
 - Seacoast Science Center
 - NH Art Assoc.
- Seek participation from
 - Individual members of Portsmouth Historic House Associates (except John Paul Jones House which is part of Portsmouth Historical
 - Arts in Reach
 - Black Heritage Trail NH
 - Player's Ring
 - Portsmouth Symphony
 - NH Film Festival – Tina will contact
 - Portsmouth Athenaeum
 - Seacoast African American Cultural Center

Audience intercept survey

- 860 completed but 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) -- Randy Cohen, AFTA visit Jan 11-12, 2024

2. **Cultural Plan Subcommittee – Jeffrey Cooper reported the subcommittee has five working**

- 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.

RFP issued – interested consultants must follow the process outlined in the RFP but Committee members encouraged to suggest potential consultants with the needed expertise to Russ.

Discussion about urgency of timeline and inability to move forward with action until the consultant is hired (ETA June?).

Councilor Cook noted it will take just one City Council meeting to accept and approve the plan. The objective is to complete the plan so it is part of the foundational documents when the Master Plan initiative begins. As Sean Clancy noted, it is hard to imagine that the Plan would be ignored after extensive input from stakeholders and subcommittee and consultant work.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm. **Next meeting, Monday May 15 at 12 noon.**