

Minutes – October 16, 2023 -- Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofits Committee

Russ called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Members in attendance: Russ Grazier, Robin Albert, Jason Goodrich, Genevieve Aichele, Jeff Cooper, Councilor Kate Cook. Remotely: Barb Massar, Tina Sawtelle, Beth Falconer, Ellen Fineberg. Not present: Renee Giffroy, Courtney Perkins, JerriAnne Boggis.

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

Due to lack of in-person quorum, no minutes were approved and no other votes were taken.

Russ reported that the report from the Finance/Tax Assessors office on non-profit taxing is on hold until 2024.

1. Cultural Plan Subcommittee Update:

Jeff Cooper, Russ Grazier, Jason Goodrich and Genevieve Aichele discussed a tentative arts organizations tour for the ARG representatives on Tues/Wed Oct 17-18. The agenda for the joint committee work session scheduled for Thurs Oct 19 is intended to initiate the transition between ARG's community outreach/data collection efforts and the initial draft of the Cultural Plan. The debrief includes:

- Report on the Committee focus group
- Report on the community survey
- Report on the zoom focus group sessions
- Report on the live focus group

Barbara reiterated that the Cultural Plan Subcommittee is "all over the project" and is investing a significant amount of time and effort.

2. AFTA Update (Robin Albert):

AFTA reported its national data on October 12. As soon as the spreadsheet of participating organizations is confirmed the subcommittee will share the Portsmouth data with them – but is requesting that the information be shared only with sponsors or stakeholders and not with the public. The public release of data will coincide with Randy's visit Jan 11-12, 2024.

Visit schedule:

Thurs 11 Jan – Chamber breakfast, Portsmouth Rotary lunch at 12 noon

Fri 12 Jan – Nonprofit workshop at 3S – with more emphasis than last time on best practices for sharing the data in an effective way.

3. End of the Year Report

Russ and Barbara will coordinate the draft for presentation at the final City Council meeting on Dec 18 (deadline Dec 13). They will offer a verbal powerpoint presentation and hand out reports at the meeting.

Report will cover accomplishments since the Dec 2021 report:

- Timeline of how committee evolved from Covid Relief Task Force in May 2020 to now
- AFTA – top line results
- Cultural Plan
- Ordinance creating Cultural Commission

- Cultural Commission members (proposed for consideration 11/13 and voted 12/4)
- Marketing pilot
- Public Art Review Committee
- Request for ARPA funds

4. **Cultural Commission Applications**

Application form available on the City Clerk's page and on the Arts Committee page.

Deadline to apply is November 7 for one of the 12 positions:

- 4 cultural organization – nonprofits or for-profits – representative for the organization does not need to be a Portsmouth resident and should note s/he is applying as the organization delegate and use the organization's address
- 4 members of the community (Portsmouth resident)
- 4 artists (Portsmouth resident)
- 1 Alternate
- 1 City Councilor/1 staff

5 applications received so far

Barbara commented that she wished to acknowledge the work and transformative accomplishments of the Arts & Nonprofits Committee, especially that the Cultural Commission is now part of City government – an important and meaningful milestone. Russ seconded that the committee should celebrate 'what we all did together.'

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm. **Next meeting, Thursday Oct 19, 10 am to 2 pm with Subcommittee.**