



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 29, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room A
City Hall Complex, 1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order at 10:03 am**
- 2. Roll Call:** Councilor John Tabor, Councilor Vincent Lombardi and Councilor Kate Cook present. Also present was the Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney Suzanne M. Woodland.
- 3. Approval of Committee Minutes from meetings of June 13, 2022, July 1, 2022, and July 25, 2022.**

Motion by Councilor Lombardi, seconded by Councilor Tabor to accept the meeting minutes. All in favor.

4. Committees/Ordinances to Review

a. Public Art Ordinance/Public Art Review Committee.

Councilor Cook invited Nancy Pearson to provide history on the development of Art-Speak and public art guidelines and policies over the years. Big issue/challenge is that there is currently no entity to help the City implement its percent for art ordinance or provide other input on art-related donations or issues.

Councilor Tabor asked Ms. Pearson about art donations and how that was handled historically. Ms. Pearson summarized the past process and the guidelines for accepting public art.

Councilor Cook reviewed the draft Public Art Review Committee (PARC) ordinance and identified key points regarding membership and committee purposes and powers.

There was an exchange among committee members, the Deputy City Manager and Nancy Pearson regarding PARC accepting referrals from the land use boards and how PARC might bring a helpful perspective when there is a question as to whether art is “signage” or “advertising”.

Councilor Lombardi supports the PARC weighing in on public art to be installed on public property. He expressed concern about PARC opining on art on private property.

Councilor Cook reviewed the remainder of the proposed PARC ordinance in terms of meetings, reports and revenue development.

Councilor Cook reviewed proposed changes to Article XVII §1.1704.

Councilor Tabor suggested that it be made clearer that the Chair of PARC would be elected by the committee annually.

Councilor Cook reviewed proposed changes to §1.1707 and there was discussion of how it might be a benefit by triggering a process with regard to donations of art.

Councilor Cook reviewed proposed changes to City Council policy 2009-06. Changes include incorporating policy 2014-02 so there is just one art-related policy. There was discussion about returning to the language of “must” rather than “should” with regard to stewardship funds.

b. Cable Television and Communication Commission Ordinance Change

Jason Huett introduced himself as a member of the Cable Commission. He reviewed internet delivery methods and current issues. He reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 1, Article IV §1.408.

Mr. Huett explained the potential benefits to an expanded mission to look at how to encourage competition and remove barriers to better internet delivery.

Governance Committee members were favorably disposed to broader mission. Governance Committee will take this up again at their next meeting.

c. Portsmouth Historical Archives

Councilor Lombardi reviewed the draft document he prepared with the assistance of the Library Director which outlines membership and mission of a potential blue ribbon committee. Suggests inviting representatives of the Portsmouth Historical Society, Strawberry Banke Museum and Athenaeum to the next Governance Committee meeting to get input.

Discussion of imaging of records.

Councilor Cook opined that from her perspective the purpose of this blue ribbon committee is to have it make recommendations as to next steps.

5. Other Business

Councilor Cook inquired when the committee might consider proposed ordinance changes to address stagger / rotation issues. The Deputy City Manager reported that Attorney Robert Sullivan should have a draft for the Governance Committee to consider at its next meeting.

Next meetings: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. September 21st; Monday, 10:00 a.m. October 17th; Monday, 10:00 October 31st.

6. Public Comment

Petra Huda (commented on PARC and proposed changes to Article XVII)

Susan Sterry (support for archives discussion)

7. Adjournment

Councilor Lombardi moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Tabor. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by
Suzanne M. Woodland
Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney

Approved by Governance Committee on: December 12, 2022