

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: November 10, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – November 14, 2022 (before 5:00 p.m.)

November 14, 2022 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

New Content:

Submitted on Sun, 11/13/2022 - 10:06

Full Name

Elizabeth Dinan

Email

dinanroom@gmail.com

Subject

cycling safety

Address

639 maplewood ave

Message

Dear Councilors,

The city recently spent a great deal of money and three years reconstructing Maplewood Avenue, in part for "complete streets" safety features, including bike lanes. Unfortunately there is a block, from the Bypass off-ramp to Dennett Street, where parking cars is permitted, people do park there and there is no bike lane. This forces cyclists into traffic before the bike lane resumes on the other side of Dennett Street and continues into town (it gets squeezed out at the Jumpin Jay's intersection). I write to ask if you would please review this apparent oversight and prohibit parking of cars in that block. Thanks very much for your work for the city.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 11/14/2022 - 10:59

Full Name

Chris Dwyer

Email

cdwyer@rmcres.com

Subject

Gateway sculpture

Address

600 Broad street

Message

I'm writing to support transfer of the leftover funds from the Foundry public art project to the proposed gateway sculpture for Bohenko park. When the Council crafted the original public art ordinance a number of years ago, we discussed the possibility of such a scenario. Moreover, it's very important that the City make a meaningful financial contribution to public art in the gateway in order to spur others' contributions—a lesson I learned when leading the fundraising efforts for the African Burying Ground.

The unveiling of public art at the African Burying Ground was such an uplifting and unifying moment for the community. I think the right sculpture(s) in the gateway could create a similar moment—a feeling that we need badly in this time of persistent negativity. It will remind the larger community that they are part of something very special—that Portsmouth is not populated only by the angry and disgruntled who are perpetually tilting at faux windmills—but the home of hundreds of uniquely talented and generous individuals who retain an open spirit of welcome.

In case you are overwhelmed once again at this week's Council meeting by the usual chorus of complainers, let me reinforce that the positive Portsmouth spirit is alive and well and shared by so many. I had an unusually busy week of positive Portsmouth encounters that I want to share with you as examples to buoy your spirits and reinforce your efforts in serving this remarkable community.

- Tuesday: my former Council colleague and long time friend, Harold Whitehouse, dutifully greeted the voters of Ward 5, and as always, was ready with a few sweetly flirtatious words. We met almost thirty years ago when we performed together during the Shipyard project, and while we rarely agreed on policy and budget items when we served on the Council together, I don't remember a harsh word between us; rather lots of laughter, good stories, and hugs.
- Wednesday: the Portsmouth Advocates awards presentation was filled with many of the real deal history folks—Richard Candee, the Nylanders, Larry Yerdon, Peter Michaud, Kerry Vautrot—and I was reminded how gracefully they have embraced the changes of the past decades while knowing when and how to hold onto and speak to what really matters most.

- Thursday: signing day for 101 Objects—more than 80 (!) authors participated under the guidance of public, nonprofit and private organizations to create this remarkable capsule version of Portsmouth history. Can you imagine any other community with that type of “can do”-“will do” enthusiasm?
- Friday—restaurant week! Somewhat unusual to not recognize any of the diners at Jumpin’ Jays or The Wilder but it fills me with awe that so many folks come to our City to share an evening with friends and celebrate their big moments. Their joy contributes to the vibe that enlivens the local climate.
- Saturday and Sunday—enjoying some time learning about historic textiles at a Strawberry Banke meeting, taking in Bob Thoresen’s art exhibit about recycled materials, and seeing a dance performance at the Plains School. I do know most of the folks at these venues—people who have contributed their time, talents and hard work over decades to make the Portsmouth that we love. You usually don’t see them making complaints at public comment—they are too busy raising funds for good causes, supporting their neighbors and family members, repairing the old, and creating the new.

This week has affirmed for me the Portsmouth spirit of openness, welcome, and creativity. You are serving in key leadership positions to safeguard the opportunities that those before you have created and develop new ones for other Portsmouth citizens to enjoy.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 11/14/2022 - 11:09

Full Name

Erik Anderson

Email

andy42152@aol.com

Subject

PDA Board of Directors Meeting

Address

#8 Georges Terrace

Message

Dear Councilors

Consistent with past policy and monthly reports, the PDA Board of Directors will hold will meet on Nov 17, 2022 at 8:30 am at the Pease Office Building for its monthly meeting.

With a full agenda of items for information and discussion the following might find interest for the purposes of the City of Portsmouth.

1) The Tradeport is broken into 5 business units which are fiscally tracked individually for revenue and expense purposes. The categories are 1) Portsmouth Airport, 2 Skyhaven Airport 3) The Tradeport 4) Pease Golf Course 5) Div. of Ports and Harbors.

Collectively as a whole PDA is fiscally sound and profitable although each business unit varies in profitable operation. The Tradeport which is the business leasing of PDA is the largest profitable component of PDA supports less revenue units of PDA. Pease Golf Course is another revenue positive unit of PDA the supports the other business units.

2) The NH Air National Guard (NHANG) has been in negotiations with PDA to request a land swap of a parcel of land they have (3.5 acres) in exchange for up to 16 acres that abuts NHANG property and which is part of the "North 40" parcel that has been contemplated for aeronautical development. There is disparity in the valuations of the two properties and at this time no proposals for valuation equity .

3) PlaneSense is investigating a sizable expansion of their facilities and at this time is doing so with a "Right of Entry" and request of extension

4) Pease Golf Course continues to set records with the amount of play the course is handling and revenue continues to exceed past marks.

5) The Div. of Ports & Harbors continues with facility upgrades at the 555 Market St, Terminal and will be accepting ship traffic during those improvements.

6) Leases and tenant activity at the Tradeport is strong and positive and as mentioned contributes to substantial revenue.

If there are any items of concern or interest to city councilors please do not hesitate to bring them to attention so addressed thru the board of directors.

With thanks to your time in welcoming any reply

Erik Anderson

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 11/14/2022 - 13:47

Full Name

Drew Cahill

Email

dcahill6@gmail.com

Subject

Speeding on Dennett Street

Address

276 Dennett Street

Message

Good afternoon, I am writing to ask the city to help residents with the speeding problem on Dennett St. My wife and I, and our 5 year-old daughter live at 276 Dennett St. The speed limit on this street is 20 mph. The neighborhood is full of young children. We regularly see vehicles passing through at 35/40 mph. At that speed, one misstep by a child would almost guarantee a tragic result. The drivers would have no time to react. Again, vehicles regularly pass through at these deadly speeds. Coming towards downtown, after drivers clear the stop sign at Burkitt, there is nothing to make them slow down before they arrive at the intersection with Maplewood. This effectively turns our end of Dennett into a secondary highway for some. We need help from the city. In the two years since we purchased our home, I have not once seen Portsmouth PD pull someone over for speeding or conduct a speed trap on our street. I recently spoke with an officer, who said they would be happy to do a speed trap. I am writing to alert the city council to this problem, and to ask that Portsmouth PD be encouraged to police this issue. I am also requesting that the city consider all available options to slow down traffic along our stretch. For instance, might a speed table be possible. Or perhaps an additional stop sign on Dennett and Thornton. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and Portsmouth PD for your continued service to our community.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
