

City of Newport
Public Sculpture Commission
December 31, 2024
Edward King House
35 King Street, Newport, RI 02840
Annual Report

The Public Sculpture Commission convened on November 6, 2023 and met on a monthly basis thereafter: December 1, 2023, January 5, 2024, February 2, 2024, March 1, 2024, April 5, 2024, May 3, 2024, June 7, 2024, July 12, 2024, August 2, 2024, September 6, 2024, October 4, 2024, November 1, 2024. The December 6, 2024 meeting did not have a quorum.

The following council members were sworn in: Linda Gordon, Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Ronald J. Onorato, Federico Santi, John Shehan, Paul Szapary and Harle Tinney. Federico Santi was elected Chair; Linda Gordon, Vice-President; Nancy W. Grinnell, Secretary; Paul Szapary, Treasurer.

The passing of Linda Gordon in June 2024 left a vacancy on the commission and Paul Miller was elected to fill it in October 2024.

Scott Wheeler, the City's Superintendent of Parks, Grounds and Forestry served as special advisor

Roll calls:

Linda Gordon:	Present: Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, May 3; Absent: Nov. 6, 2023, April 5
Nancy W. Grinnell	Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6
Paul Miller:	Absent: Nov. 1, Dec. 6
Ronald J. Onorato	Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Nov. 1; Absent: July 12, Dec. 6
Federico Santi	Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 Absent: March 1, Dec. 6
John Shehan	Present: Nov. 6, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 Absent: Dec. 1, Aug. 2, Dec. 6
Paul Szapary	Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Dec. 6 Absent: Jan. 5, Aug. 2, Nov. 1

Harle Tinney Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 5, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Scott Wheeler Present: Nov. 6, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 5, Oct. 4
Absent: March 5, April 5, May 3, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Major accomplishments:

The Mission and statement were approved for City's web page.

Paul Szapary was head of sub-committee on proposal to move the Albert Gwynne Vanderbilt Memorial Fountain from its location off Broadway to front of Empire Tea and Coffee on Bellevue Avenue. Subsequent meetings with necessary participants in this endeavor as well as other concerned groups has proceeded. A presentation was made to City Council on December 11.

Linda Gordon completed a list of memorials under the Commission's oversight.

The Commission submitted an amended Resolution to the City Council.

The Commission adapted a Monuments and Memorials Policy to be used for proposed memorials, in collaboration with the Tree and Open Space Commission.

Ron Onorato has been consulting potential conservators who might assess the condition and maintenance needs of the sculptures under our purview.

Capping off the year was the imminent re-installation of the Captain John Waters Memorial bronze relief in Newport's City Hall. This public sculpture memorializing Newport's former mayor was originally installed in 1900 and has been in basement storage for decades. Meetings with city officials have prompted attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Secretary