



# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## CITY OF BANGOR

TANYA EMERY  
DIRECTOR

### COMMISSION ON CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT – GOMEZ SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 10:30 am

#### MEETING MINUTES

**Subcommittee Members Present:** A. Roeder, T. Greenlaw, K. Smith

**Additional Attendees:** B. McDade, A. Filipiak, M. Dana, M. Bishop

**City Staff Present:** Emery, Saucier

1. Election of a Chair: Member Greenlaw moved to nominate Member Roeder as Chair of the Subcommittee, seconded by Member Smith. Roll call vote: Roder yes, Greenlaw yes, Smith yes. Vote passes 3-0.
2. Future meeting dates: September 2, 17, 30 at 9:00 am. Member Roeder moved to approve these meeting dates, seconded by Member Greenlaw. Roll call vote: Roder yes, Greenlaw yes, Smith yes. Vote passes 3-0. Notices about discussion will be put out by City, including social media posts and press releases. Ambassador Dana says she can communicate with the Penobscot Nation about interest in participating in the next meetings.
3. Process of work - Member Filipiak suggests a public ad/notice be published. Staff will work on wording for advertisements for public participation and press release and social media. Matt Bishop says that BHS does not have information about the monument or the history related to it. Member Filipiak will reach out to the Bangor Public Library. Liam Riordan reached out to staff to help as this is his area of research/specialty at UMaine. Member Roeder will reach out to him.
4. Comments from Ambassador Maulian Dana – Bangor and Penobscot Nation are really intertwined, doesn't seem like the most appropriate thing for Bangor to have a monument to someone who did some brutal things to our ancestors, this issue fits into the theme of how we take these visual things and examine them, and the biases we are all carrying, and how we improve everything. Matt Bishop asks if this is something where the Penobscot Nation feels it would still be bad residing in the care of the historical society? Should we have it in Bangor at all? Ambassador Dana – line between learning the history and honoring a person. Matt Bishop replies that the BHS can probably host it appropriately with the right language from the Penobscot Nation and/or other stakeholders about the true history.
5. How have other communities handled deaccession? Member Greenlaw will contact Halifax, they have a monument placed by this same group (for another Portuguese



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explorer). Athens, GA recently removed a monument, Member Roeder will look into this.

6. The monument is on the City's app right now as a cultural asset, can there be some cultural context added to that description? Member Greenlaw can help by adding some info about this monument being under review as

there has been some controversy.

7. Member Greenlaw asks how will we handle the public commentary at future meetings. Tanya Emery gives an overview of the existing City process and resources.
8. Agenda for next meeting –
  - a. Public Comment, 3-minute limit if needed. Include those received in advance with agenda.
  - b. Reports back from members/staff about outreach and research – Penobscot Nation, New Bedford community, Gomez descendants, Portuguese community, BHS, BPL, schools, Liam/UMaine.
  - c. Discussion on info from public comment/reports from staff.
9. Motion to adjourn made by Member Greenlaw, seconded by Member Smith. Kevin 2nd. Roll call vote: Roder yes, Greenlaw yes, Smith yes. Vote passes 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanya L. Emery  
Director, Community & Economic Development