

City of Keene
New Hampshire

COLLEGE/CITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2020

4:00 PM

**KSC Student Center, Mountain
View Room, 3rd Floor**

Members Present:

Steve Fortier, Chair
Dave Richards, Co-Chair
Kelly Ricaurte
Kya Roumimper
Robin Picard
Danya Landis
Peter Starkey
Victoria Bergstrom
Dick Berry
Dr. Dottie Morris

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Community Development
Director
Kim Schmidl-Gagne

Members Not Present:

Dr. Chris Cusack
Councilor Philip Jones
Ely Thayer
Jeff Murphy

Chair Fortier called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

1) Roll Call

Mr. Lamb conducted roll call.

2) Review Minutes from November 25, 2019

Dr. Morris moved to accept the meeting minutes from November 25, 2019 with amendments, Co-Chair Richards seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correction to November 25 2019 minutes: change “Kaya Roumimper” to “Kya Roumimper.”

3) Continued Discussion – Strategic Planning

Chair Fortier stated that Co-Chair Richards and he will meet with the President Treadwell and Mayor Hansel on Wednesday at 4 pm to bring College/City Commission’s set of priorities to the table and assess how they match up with the ideas of the Mayor and the President. He asked members for any questions or comments and then directed members to participate in an exercise in which they would individually rank their priority topics. Chair Fortier stated that the topic

headings members can choose from were derived from input from the November meeting which he then developed into separate topic headings which reflect member priorities. Chair Fortier stated that Mr. Thayer provided him with his top five priorities because he could not attend today's meeting.

Chair Fortier provided members with sticker dots and instructed them to apply the stickers to the headings/topics they would individually prioritize most. He said the topics with the most stickers will be presented to President Treadwell and Mayor Hansel. He added that topics that fall behind the most prioritized ones will also be discussed with the President and Mayor. Members placed sticker dots next to their highest priority topics listed on sheets.

Chair Fortier announced the priority topics identified by members: (1) "hands-on" learning for KSC students in the community; (2) housing for young professionals; (3) the need to improve neighborhood relations; (4) attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. He stated that the next step is to bring these priority issues to the Mayor and President to get their input. He asked if there were any surprises.

Ms. Picard stated that in regard to the housing for KSC students, members have also discussed housing for older people as an important item as well, so perhaps they can envelop the two topics together. Chair Fortier stated that on a policy level there are ways to make that an overarching policy that would be inclusive of people of all ages. Co-Chair Richards stated that he likes the idea of having three big topics. Ms. Landis agreed with that idea as well so as to not overwhelm the President and Mayor. She said the housing and diverse workforce priority topics could potentially be combined. Chair Fortier agreed that there could be a case made for combining items under different headings.

Chair Fortier stated that he will meet with Mr. Hansel and President Treadwell and bring the information he gathers back to the committee.

4) Public Comment

Ms. Landis shared that she had worked with the City and an artist from New York City on installing a pinwheel piece in Railroad Square. She said it is time for the piece to be removed, however, the artist is being very stubborn about it. She said she is currently working with Friends of Public Art, the Sculpting Department at Keene State College and Mr. Bohannon from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to secure a grant through the non-profit organization Friends of Public Art to fund a publically-based project in that location for which students can apply for. She said the grant would award \$1-2K to an artist to create a public art installment. Ms. Landis stated that this represents a good opportunity for the City and the College to work together and invited members to become involved in a grassroots project. Chair Fortier asked if there is any precedent members can think of where CCC has become involved in a similar grassroots opportunity. Mr. Berry replied that the crosswalks project was a capital improvement project. Ms. Landis says she has a lot of connections in the community but for someone who does not, they may need additional awareness about avenues for support for similar grassroots projects.

Ms. Landis said initially she envisioned any artist applying for the grant, however, she thought a KSC student would help strengthen the City-College relationship. Mr. Lamb noted that cities are built for accommodating policies between the City and College as the administrative hurdles are

less. Ms. Landis agreed. She said she is in contact with Ms. Lynn Richardson from the Sculpture Department at KSC. Mr. Berry asked where the funding will come from. Ms. Landis replied that she thinks the Putnam Foundation may be a good fit so she will be reaching out to see if they are interested, or the New Hampshire Arts Council. Mr. Berry asked how much money they will be asking for and Ms. Landis replied \$1-2K every other year which is not a lot of money and would make a big impact and is an easy ask for the right organization's mission.

Mr. Berry asked for an update about the transportation initiative among college students. Chair Fortier said he represents the College on the Intermodal Transportation Feasibility Study Group and they will have an interactive public session to gather input on February 4th between 3-6 pm, and then from 6-7 pm the staff from Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) who is leading the initiative, will deliver a presentation on the information they gather during the 3-6 pm public input period. Chair Fortier said the study group is already working on prioritizing potential stop locations which they are designing to be central to where students are located. He noted that designing a human-centered transportation system increases the likelihood that the service will be used. Mr. Berry asked if there is already a bus service and Mr. Lamb stated that the public bus service is run by Home Healthcare. Mr. Berry added that he thought that DOT funded the Friendly Bus and part of the route included the college. Mr. Lamb replied that the Friendly Bus receives some funding from NH DOT but it is almost entirely locally-funded. Ms. Victoria added that Dr. Cusack did a study that demonstrated that students are not taking the Friendly Bus because it is not going where they have requested it to go. She said they originally wanted an Uber model and there has been no progress since 2017.

Ms. Picard stated that there was a report done by the Director of Campus Safety, Mr. Jeff Meyers, and this year they had a series of meetings with Student Information and Mr. Kevin Williams came up with a plan and data so there is a lot of information already available from the past five years. Ms. Bergstrom said that campus safety released a report which shows demand per month from. She said there will be a Safety Walk showing the locations where students feel the most vulnerable. Ms. Picard stated that they did a three month survey and calculated \$275 per ride for each student and concluded that it took students over an hour to get to the Hospital. She said there is a lot of statistical data from Mr. Cusack's class as well. Chair Fortier said the Intermodal Transportation initiative connects people to cultural centers as well that have a high priority beyond foot. Mr. Berry asked if this has been planned out so that if members wanted to back these projects they would be made aware. Chair Fortier replied that the open house and discussion for the study group is taking place on Tuesday, February 4, from 3-6 pm in the Atrium, and will move into the basement at 6 pm and Mr. JB Mack and Mr. Todd Horner will be leading the effort, as well as people from the Friendly Bus and Mr. Josh Meehan. Dr. Morris noted that a bus from Keene to Brattleboro would be very helpful. Chair Fortier stated that there have been more public information sessions on this topic and he apologized for not communicating this information earlier to members of CCC, however, there will be more informational sessions and he will be sure to send more information via email to CCC.

Ms. Landis asked if there is a time and year when internships are released and asked how internships can be more publicized. She mentioned Hannah Grimes as an example. A member stated that KSC has said that internships will be a project with the the NECHI Institute and perhaps they can bring together Chitra Akkoo of KSC and Ms. Kristen Brooks. She said they are beginning to do some work but the idea of having an advisory board may be a good idea and perhaps they can weave that into the NECHI Institute projection. She said they are working on

technical issues as of now. Ms. Landis added that internships have been a positive experience for her, personally.

Chair Fortier stated that Mr. Ryan Hale, a KSC alum from 2002, is the Workforce Development point person from the New Hampshire Bankers Association and he is currently creating a toolkit. Mr. Starkey stated that he had three interns in the past year and it is a fantastic option for small organizations.

5) Adopt the 2020 meeting calendar

Chair Fortier stated that he would like to come to an agreement about the meeting dates for 2020. Tuesday, May 26 is at City Hall and does not involve the support staff and is typically a KSC hosting date, so he proposed moving it back to May 25. Ms. Roumimper stated that May 25 is Memorial Day. Chair Fortier asked members if May 26 would work for due to the holiday. Ms. Picard asked if they could go with May 26, 2020 and asked if that would work for members. Chair Fortier stated that Ms. Bergstrom will not be around by then as she is graduating, however, their alternate is a junior so he may be around on that date. Members agreed to move the meeting to May 26, 2020 at the KSC Student Center, Mountain View Room, Third Floor.

6) Next Meeting – Monday February 24, 2020; 4:00PM, 2nd Floor Conf. Room, City Hall

7) Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Fortier adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker