

**CITY OF KEENE
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall



1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required)**
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** March 21, 2022
4. **Board Business:**
 - a) Planning for possible Keene Delegation to Einbeck – 2nd week of October of 2022 – head count of those planning to go. Theme ideas
 - b) Discuss Keene Sentinel’s James Rinker, digital community engagement journalist - Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges.
 - c) Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, dance, rugby
 - d) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities/Taste of Keene
 - e) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook updates
5. **Communications:**
6. **Reports:**
 - a) Treasurer Report
7. **New Business:**
 - a) Update – Rotary club’s total contribution to Einbeck for Humanitarian effort for Ukraine.
 - b) KSC Music Department – interest in exchange (KSC to Einbeck)
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is May 17, 2022
9. **More Time:**
 - a) Student pen-pal ideas – High School 16 -18 year olds.
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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4
5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, March 21, 2022

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Mayor George Hansel
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Dawn Thomas-Smith
Lena Kridlo
Kürt Blomquist, Ex-Officio
Greg Kleiner

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Members Not Present:

Mari Brunner
Dr. Delene White

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9
10 **1) Call to Order**

11
12 Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

13
14 **2) Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required)**

15
16 Roll call was conducted.

17
18 **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting: February 8, 2022**

19
20 Mayor Hansel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 8, 2022. Councilor
21 Giacomo seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

22
23 **4) Board Business**

24 **A) Planning for possible Keene Delegation to Einbeck – 2nd week of October of**
25 **2022 – head count of those planning to go**

26
27 The Mayor stated that Councilor Giacomo spoke to Elizabeth Cardine. Councilor Giacomo
28 replied yes, Ms. Cardine is a teacher and one of the founders of the MC2 Charter School. He

29 continued that it turns out that the Cardine family hosted Einbeck students in the 1990s, so they
30 already have a connection in that way. He talked with Ms. Cardine about the way Germany's
31 education system works, and she said it sounds like a great fit for MC2 if the PCC is interested in
32 pursuing any further with MC2, and it absolutely aligns with the way MC2 works, being a
33 vocational model and alternative education methods. Exchanges with Einbeck would fit into
34 their curriculum, better than with traditional curriculum. Ms. Cardine was excited about it and
35 wants to talk more about it. Chair Mitchell replied that she can contact him. Councilor Giacomo
36 stated that MC2 might be open to joining the trip in October, if they could talk with schools in
37 Einbeck as part of the exchange. Chair Mitchell replied that is a good idea.

38
39 Chair Mitchell stated that he spoke with the Keene High School principal. He continued that she
40 was going to have a meeting and then talk with him again.

41
42 Mr. Blomquist stated that he thinks they should put MC2 folks on the list of delegates, if they are
43 interested. Councilor Giacomo replied that MC2's specific interest is in how Germany could
44 potentially have educational models that more closely align with MC2. Mr. Blomquist suggested
45 he get MC2's contact information to Ms. Mattson. Councilor Giacomo agreed.

46
47 Mayor Hansel stated that Councilor Mike Remy said he is potentially interested in going on the
48 October trip as well, but they have not had a chance to really get into it. He continued that he
49 mentioned the trip to Dan Smith at the YMCA, but Mr. Smith has been involved in many other
50 things that are taking his attention, so he is not sure. He suspects Mr. Smith will tell him he/the
51 YMCA has too much other stuff going on right now, but he will follow up.

52
53 Chair Mitchell asked about other possible connections or opportunities. He continued that per
54 the latest email he received from Jurgen Herbst, the Einbeck people want to know when the
55 Keene delegation is traveling. The Einbeck people want them to arrive on the morning of
56 October 7 and stay until the 15th. It gets a little complicated. In a perfect world, they want the
57 Keene delegation to fly into Berlin, as a group, and the Einbeck hosts would pick them up. They
58 would do the visit in Berlin and then go to Einbeck. Ms. Kridlo stated that there are no direct
59 flights from Boston; there is a layover in Frankfurt. She continued that she recommends taking
60 the train from Frankfurt. Discussion ensued about flights.

61
62 Chair Mitchell stated that Einbeck wants them to fly into Berlin together, then be taken to
63 Einbeck, return to Berlin as a group on October 15, and depart from there. He continued that the
64 last time people from Keene went to Einbeck, they each did their own tickets, and managed their
65 own travel from the airport to where they were expected. That is something for the PCC to think
66 about now and make a decision shortly. He does not want to leave Einbeck on the hook for
67 another month, not knowing whether Einbeck hosts will be picking their Keene guests up in
68 Berlin or not. He has to be able to talk to Mr. Herbst in three weeks. He could tell Mr. Herbst
69 "no, thank you," and everyone's travel plans could be independent, or they could try to arrive in
70 Berlin at the same time as a group.

71

72 Discussion ensued. Councilor Giacomo stated that part of the issue last time was that some
73 people needed to leave Einbeck earlier than others, so they needed that flexibility. Mr.
74 Blomquist stated that if the PCC is asking people to pay for their own travel tickets, they might
75 not want to dictate how and when to travel, if people need a less expensive time and method to
76 get to Einbeck. Chair Mitchell stated that Mr. Herbst might have proposed to have everyone
77 meet in Berlin as a way of making it easier for the Keene delegation, but if it is not, maybe they
78 should decide right now that everyone will travel on their own. Mayor Hansel stated that it
79 would be fun to visit Berlin first, if they could. Discussion continued. Mr. Blomquist stated that
80 his advice, from previous experience, is to take an overnight flight the day before the festival
81 begins on Friday afternoon, so you have time to sleep. He spoke of how difficult it was for some
82 folks to not arrive in Einbeck until a few hours before the festival started, stay up late that night,
83 and have to get up at 6:00 the next morning.

84
85 Chair Mitchell stated that from this discussion it sounds like people want to go on their own. Mr.
86 Blomquist and the Mayor agreed. Councilor Giacomo stated that if some people wanted to do
87 Berlin, it would make it more complicated if the rest of the group wanted to do Frankfurt. He
88 continued that they should probably coordinate where they are flying into, if they want to meet
89 up in the airport or hotel and then coordinate train travel together so their Einbeck hosts are
90 picking up the people from Keene all that the same time instead of having to make multiple trips.
91 Chair Mitchell stated that there is a train to Einbeck now. He continued that it also brings in the
92 complication of buying tickets, holding the tickets, and collecting the money. He asked if
93 anyone wanted to make a motion that they just get there on their own and get home on their own,
94 and he could tell Mr. Herbst that they will all be in Einbeck Friday morning.

95
96 Mr. Blomquist made a motion for the PCC to direct Chair Mitchell to tell Jurgen Herbst that
97 people traveling from Keene to Einbeck will be traveling independently, not as a group, and will
98 all be in Einbeck by the morning of Friday, October 7, 2022. Mr. Kleiner seconded the motion,
99 which passed by unanimous vote.

100
101 Councilor Giacomo stated that they should create a framework, at least, telling people to be at a
102 certain place at a certain time. Chair Mitchell replied yes, and he can talk with Mr. Herbst and
103 bring it back to the committee. Discussion continued about sharing travel
104 arrangements/information with one another, and Ms. Mattson stated that yes, last time she asked
105 everyone to give her their schedule and she put it on a spreadsheet and sent it to everyone.

106
107 Chair Mitchell stated that they have an updated headcount of who is going to Einbeck, and Ms.
108 Mattson has made a list. Councilor Giacomo asked for a copy of the list and Chair Mitchell gave
109 it to him. Councilor Giacomo stated that he might not be there for the entire trip; he might have
110 to leave early due to not having enough vacation days.

111
112 **B) Discuss Keene Sentinel's James Rinker, digital community engagement**
113 **journalist – Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges**
114

115 Ms. Mattson stated that she sent this to everyone. She continued that this is a good opportunity
116 to schedule an outreach, and maybe invite James Rinker to a meeting. Others replied that that is
117 a good idea. Councilor Giacomo stated that Mr. Rinker's position is new, and many
118 organizations are eager to talk with him. They should invite him to a meeting sooner rather than
119 later, because he will be a hot commodity.

120
121 Discussion ensued about what to share with Mr. Rinker about the PCC's history and Keene's
122 partnership with Einbeck. The Mayor asked when the partnership started, and Ms. Mattson
123 replied 2000. Ms. Thomas-Smith stated that they had reached out to the Sentinel previously, and
124 had gathered the history and information; she will look through her files. Regarding the number
125 of exchanges Keene has done with Einbeck, committee members determined that it has been at
126 least 20 years, and this year's exchange might be the 25th, because some years have had more
127 than one exchange. Ms. Mattson stated that she has a full list of all the exchanges.

128
129 Ms. Mattson stated that she will contact Mr. Rinker and invite him to come to a meeting.

130

131 **C) Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, dance, rugby**

132

133 Councilor Giacomo stated that there is potential with the folks from MC2 Charter School.

134

135 Chair Mitchell asked if Sandra Howard should be contacted. He continued that he imagines she
136 still has strong connections with KSC and the Chorale group. Ms. Mattson replied that Dr.
137 White was going to do that for the PCC, but she has moved out of the area. She (Ms. Mattson)
138 has Ms. Howard's email. Chair Mitchell replied that he will contact her.

139

140 **D) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities/Taste of Keene**

141

142 Mr. Kleiner stated that the PCC is slated for a booth at Beer Garden, June 4, with June 5 as the
143 rain date. He continued that he was not a part of it last year on the PCC's side so he does not
144 know how they will get the beer. Discussion ensued about the logistics. Councilor Giacomo
145 stated that Brewtopia should be able to acquire the beer and it is not too complicated.

146

147 Chair Mitchell stated that they need a sign-up sheet for who is helping with this event. Ms.
148 Thomas-Smith stated that she can help with planning but cannot be at the event. She continued
149 that last year they used Sign Up Genius. Mr. Schoefmann replied that he can try to find the Sign
150 Up Genius information from last year and set that up, and if needed, he will contact Ms. Thomas-
151 Smith to help. Councilor Giacomo stated that he might be able to help at the event this year.

152

153 Discussion ensued about supplies needed for the event. Mr. Schoefmann asked if they want to
154 have a raffle this year. Ms. Mattson replied that they are out of items to raffle. Councilor
155 Giacomo replied that they could maybe get items from Einbeck in October to include in a raffle
156 next summer. Discussion continued.

157

158 **E) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates**

159
160 Ms. Thomas-Smith stated that she still has “upload photos” on her to-do list. She continued that
161 she does not know the status of the surveys. Ms. Mattson replied that Ms. Brunner was working
162 on that. She continued that she thinks they only got four or five responses. Mr. Schoefmann
163 replied that they probably need to do more posts on social media; they cannot post just one time.
164 The Mayor replied yes, they should post regularly, like every Friday. Councilor Giacomo asked
165 if it was a direct email. Mr. Schoefmann no, it was a social media post on Instagram and
166 Facebook. He continued that they could probably distribute it via email. Ms. Mattson replied
167 that she has quite a few email addresses from previous participants, but they are from a long time
168 ago. Councilor Giacomo suggested they reach out to contacts from the groups that have done
169 exchanges and see if they will email the survey to the people in their groups. Ms. Mattson
170 replied that she can look at her contact lists. She continued that it goes back 15 years, but if
171 people do not change their email addresses that often, it might work.

172

173 **5) Communications**

174 **A) Elm City Rotary Club – Donation to Einbeck**

175

176 Chair Mitchell stated that Ms. Mattson started the process to help the Elm City Rotary Club get
177 in touch with the Einbeck Partnership Committee and facilitate the transfer of about \$7,500
178 dollars to Einbeck, to help with displaced people coming out of Ukraine. He had a meeting with
179 Yves Gakunde and listened to his goals, and Mr. Gakunde spoke of how the Rotary Club wanted
180 to ensure that the funds did not “disappear into a big pot.” They wanted the funds to have a
181 direct impact on young people. After he (Chair Mitchell) communicated with Mr. Herbst, he
182 communicated with the Mayor [of Einbeck], who said, “We would be able to do a good job. I
183 think this would be most useful if it did not disappear into a big pot,” so the same phrase was
184 used by both parties. The Einbeck Mayor went down the list, saying how they could directly
185 help with education of young people, sports, and recreation. That email was sent to Mr.
186 Gakunde and the Rotary Club, which sealed it for them, and it has just come to pass a few hours
187 ago and officially adopted.

188

189 Chair Mitchell stated that what is interesting to him is that this is a great example of how the
190 PCC was able to meet a need that was not expected. He continued that the PCC had the
191 infrastructure already in place, and had the connections, easily able to email the Mayor. The
192 City is very fortunate. He hopes that message can get out that the PCC does more than just
193 travel. There is a genuine, strong connection between Keene and Einbeck, and that is important.

194

195 Mr. Blomquist asked if this information can be shared at the next City Council meeting. Ms.
196 Mattson replied that she has the email. Mr. Schoefmann stated that it would be great for the City
197 Manager to share this during her comments at the City Council meeting, and she can highlight
198 Yves Gakunde for his community service and the PCC. Discussion continued. Ms. Mattson
199 stated that she will make sure the City Manager gets a copy of the email/this information.

200

201 **6) Reports**

202 **A) Treasurer Report**

203

204 Mr. Kleiner stated that there is no change to the Treasurer Report.

205

206 Councilor Giacomo stated that the donation to the PCC from last year's Taste of Keene event
207 was officially accepted by the City Council last week. He continued that the money was already
208 transferred into the account months ago, so this acceptance was just a formality.

209

210 Mr. Blomquist made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Schoefmann seconded the
211 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

212

213 **7) New Business**

214 **A) Ability to move the May meeting from 5/10/2022 to 5/17/2022**

215

216 Chair Mitchell stated that the May meeting will be May 17, 2022, and hopefully everyone can
217 make that. Ms. Mattson stated that she will move it on the City's calendar.

218

219 Chair Mitchell asked if they can have a deadline for people to commit to the October exchange,
220 so Einbeck knows how many people they are hosting. Mr. Blomquist replied yes, Einbeck folks
221 are already getting antsy about the travel plans. He continued that last time, Einbeck wanted to
222 know in February, but the PCC asked for a commitment by May. He thinks by the May meeting
223 the PCC should have a firm count of who is going. They should also determine if there are topic
224 areas that people are interested in. Potentially the MC2 Charter School people are coming. They
225 can give a description of the school and Ms. Cardine's interests, who in Einbeck she might want
226 to meet with, and so on and so forth. Chair Mitchell replied that he is just trying to address the
227 numbers first. He continued that he will let Einbeck know they can expect numbers by May.

228

229 Councilor Giacomo asked if Einbeck is looking for a theme, or if the PCC had talked about it.
230 Mr. Blomquist replied that the PCC talked about it, to help Einbeck with planning for what to do.
231 Councilor Giacomo replied that last time the theme was industrial. Mr. Blomquist replied yes,
232 and youth. He continued that the PCC had talked about the theme simply being getting
233 reacquainted, but if there are smaller, sub themes, like the school connection, they can let
234 Einbeck know and conversations can get started. Councilor Giacomo stated that COVID-19
235 recovery is on everyone's mind. That will be a theme whether they intend for it to be or not. The
236 Mayor stated that he is also interested in the refugees Einbeck is accepting, and diversity and
237 inclusion issues.

238

239 **8) Next Meeting is April 12, 2022**

240

241 **9) More Time**

242 **a) Student Pen-Pal Ideas – High School 16-18 Year Olds**

243

244 **10) Adjournment**

245

246 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

247

248 Respectfully submitted by,

249 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

250

251 Reviewed and edited by,

252 Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison