

**CITY OF KEENE
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

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:** February 14, 2023
4. **Board Business:**
 - a.) KSC Music Exchange – Committee agreed it would match \$100 to what we received to cover the other family for dinner. \$100 gift card received from Monadnock Coop – vote to accept.
 - b.) PCC Meet & Greet - Einbeck’s Choir, Sat, 3/25 at 6:00 pm – Courtyard Marriott
 - c.) Discuss upcoming exchange w/Einbeck in Keene – September 29 – October 7, 2023.
 - d.) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook updates.
 - e.) Update on Future Exchange Ideas – Student exchanges and others
5. **Communications:**
6. **Reports:**
 - a) Treasurer Report
7. **New Business:**
 - a) Discuss additional guidelines/expectations to be added for people from Keene traveling to Einbeck.
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is April 11, 2023
9. **More Time:**
 - a) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities
 - b) Planning for “Taste of Keene” for next year. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free use of grill and donation for brats and kraut, volunteers.
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Mari Brunner
Kürt Blomquist
Doris McCollester
Gregg Kleiner
New Member: Derek Blunt

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant
Sandra Howard – KSC Choir

Members Not Present:

Dawn Thomas-Smith
Mayor George Hansel

8
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. Ms. Mattson stated that Derek Blunt, present today, will officially be
17 confirmed as a member by the March meeting.

18
19 **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – January 10, 2023**

20
21 Mr. Blomquist made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2023. Mr.
22 Schoefmann seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

23
24 **4) Board Business**

25 **A. KSC Music Exchange – March and May – Update from Sandra**

26 **B. PCC Volunteer to Greet Einbeck's Choir, Sat. 3/25 at 6:00 PM – Courtyard**
27 **Marriott**
28

29 Chair Mitchell asked Sandra Howard from Keene State College (KSC) to fill the PCC in on what
30 she is looking for.

31
32 Ms. Howard stated that Ms. Mattson sent an email to the PCC with a Google spreadsheet. She
33 continued that the KSC Music Exchange has the funding it needs, and she thanks the PCC for
34 adding some funding to that effort. She has enough host families, thanks to the generous
35 community. She has some requests for PCC members' participation throughout the three days that
36 Einbeck visitors are in Keene, especially when they arrive on Saturday 3/25 at 6:00 PM at the
37 Courtyard Marriott. Ten Einbeck visitors are staying there. She would like two or three PCC
38 members to be there for the greeting and help with snacks. Discussion ensued, and Chair Mitchell,
39 Mr. Schoefmann, Councilor Giacomo stated that they will be there. [Later in the meeting, Doris
40 McCollester added her name as well]. Chair Mitchell stated that there will be light baked
41 goods/snacks and water. Ms. Howard thanked them and added that anyone else from the PCC is
42 welcome to be there as well even if they did not sign up today.

43
44 Ms. Howard stated that host families will feed their guests dinner. She asked what kind of support
45 can be provided for the ten hotel guests' dinner (two families of five). Discussion ensued about
46 the options, and the PCC decided to have Ms. Brunner reach out to her contact at the Monadnock
47 Food Co-op to inquire about the possibility of gift cards, and to keep in touch with Ms. Howard
48 about this.

49
50 Ms. Howard stated that Sunday morning, the UCC is hosting, and the choir will rehearse. She
51 continued that her contact there is the Music Director. The UCC will feed the Einbeck visitors
52 lunch. She asked if Chair Mitchell can be the PCC representative that morning. Chair Mitchell
53 replied yes.

54
55 Ms. Howard continued that she needs to email all the hosts to go over transportation, and is not
56 sure yet if she needs PCC representatives to help transport from the UCC to the YMCA and/or
57 from the YMCA to KSC. She will let them know. March 26 is the concert, with PCC members
58 there to greet and welcome. Students K-12 get in free, and adult tickets have a fee, because she
59 wants to use the concert as a fundraiser for the PCC. PCC members who want to attend the concert
60 can let her know within the next week to receive comped tickets. On Monday the 27th, the Einbeck
61 visitors will get a tour of the area, via vans rented from Enterprise, and she thanks the PCC for
62 contributing to support that. She invites the PCC to join the group photo at 3:15 PM at the fountain,
63 and/or the farewell pizza party at 5:00 PM at the Thorne Sagendorph Art Gallery on campus. She
64 continued that she is trying to keep the requests of the PCC light, but their presence is always
65 welcome.

66
67 Ms. Howard asked if there were any questions. PCC members thanked her and expressed
68 appreciation for her work. Ms. Howard stated that she has been in touch with the choir contact in
69 Einbeck, and Einbeck folks are working on the program for 30 people from KSC going to Einbeck
70 in May. Plans are going well, and she will keep in touch with the PCC about it.

71

72 Mr. Blomquist asked Ms. Howard to share photos of the March visit with Ms. Mattson afterwards,
73 so the PCC has a record, and maybe for sharing on social media, sharing with the Council
74 sometime, and so on and so forth. Ms. Howard agreed.

75
76 **C. Discuss Upcoming Exchange with Einbeck in Keene – September 29 to October 7,**
77 **2023**

78
79 Chair Mitchell suggested the PCC start a working group to plan the upcoming exchange. He
80 continued that the working group could sift and sort the ideas from the PCC and bring those ideas
81 (not decisions) forward at the next PCC meeting. Discussion ensued about working group
82 membership, and the PCC determined that the members will be Mr. Schoefmann, Mayor Hansel,
83 Ms. Brunner, and Councilor Giacomo. Mr. Schoefmann stated that they need to formulate an
84 itinerary, and he will set up a Google form for people to share their general ideas. He continued
85 that the theme will be just renewing the partnership, unless Mayor Hansel has a more specific idea.
86 Mayor Hansel replied that it depends partially on who from Einbeck is coming. Chair Mitchell
87 stated that the renewing the partnership theme is good. Mr. Schoefmann stated that he will
88 schedule a meeting for the working group and put together the Google form. Mr. Blomquist
89 suggested looking through the electronic files from the last visit, which Ms. Mattson has.
90 Discussion continued about ideas and past activities that could possibly be repeated or reworked.

91
92 Chair Mitchell stated that they have to start thinking about hosts. He continued that so far they
93 have five people/families who have committed to hosting one or two guests each, for a total of ten.
94 Discussion ensued about hosting. Councilor Giacomo stated that his family can definitely host
95 one set of people and potentially have the capacity for hosting two sets of people if needed/as
96 “emergency backup.” Mr. Blunt stated that he can host as well. Ms. Mattson listed some people
97 the PCC wanted to invite to a meeting to be part of the conversation, who are interested in
98 participating in activities and/or hosting. Chair Mitchell stated that they need to keep looking,
99 because it sounds like they only have 16, and they need at least two emergency backup places.
100 Discussion continued.

101
102 Chair Mitchell stated that he received a message from the chair of Einbeck’s partner city group,
103 Jürgen Herbst. He continued that they are holding their big organizational meeting on February
104 27 and they are anxious to hear how many people Keene is inviting. Discussion ensued. The PCC
105 agreed on up to 16. Chair Mitchell stated that he will send that information to Mr. Herbst.
106 Discussion continued.

107
108 **D. PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates**

109
110 Mr. Schoefmann asked if anyone had information to share. (No).

111
112 **E. Update on Future Exchange Ideas – Student Exchanges and Others**
113

114 Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Blunt for an update. Mr. Blunt stated that they The MC2 School are in
115 the fundraising stage and recently received funding from Let it Slide. He continued that they are
116 organizing their students, who are writing their profiles to send to the BBS School. They are
117 setting up a Zoom call soon with BBS so students from the two schools can connect. Students
118 from BBS will come to Keene in October, the weekend after the Einbeck visitors leave, for about
119 a week and a half. The week is nailed down but the arrival date is not. Students from MC2 will
120 go to Einbeck in March, but the dates are not set yet. Discussion ensued. Chair Mitchell stated
121 that he thinks MC2's plans are in good shape. He continued that Mr. Blunt can let the PCC know
122 what they can do to help. Mr. Blunt added that they are also working on the legal things necessary
123 for sending teenagers across the ocean. Councilor Giacomo spoke positively about Mr. Blunt's
124 presentation about/explanation of this exchange at the Let it Slide event. Mr. Blunt stated that
125 MC2 currently has seven students for the exchange and wants to have eight or nine, and the school
126 in Einbeck will match whatever MC2 can put together.

127
128 Mr. Schoefmann stated that an Einbeck committee member Wulf Miesling arranged a discussion
129 today between him (Mr. Schoefmann), as a representative of the Monadnock Rugby Football Club,
130 and someone from the [?Gutengun?] rugby football club. He continued that they have had
131 communication about what an exchange might look like between the two rugby football clubs, and
132 Mr. Miesling was part of that discussion to represent Einbeck's interest in that connection. They
133 are working on bringing the concept to both clubs to see what they might be able to do in the next
134 year or two and what each group is hoping to get out of it. They will talk again in March. He will
135 keep the PCC updated.

136
137 Ms. Brunner stated that when she was in Einbeck she learned that they have a Tango (dance)
138 community. She continued that she is not sure if anyone from that community is interested in
139 doing an exchange. Surrounding towns have a strong Tango community. Discussion ensued about
140 dance communities in the Keene area. Ms. Brunner stated that maybe there could be a general
141 dance exchange. She personally has an interest in Tango, so if people in Einbeck's Tango
142 community are interested, she would be happy to work on this.

143
144 Mr. Blomquist stated that another potential exchange could be with the Rotary Club or Lions Club.
145 Chair Mitchell stated that the Rotary Club has connected. Mr. Blomquist replied that if he could
146 find a Lions Club connection in Einbeck, he could talk with the Keene Lions Club.

147
148 Mr. Schoefmann stated that Mr. Miesling was also interested in bicycle tourism. He continued
149 that he will talk with some contacts in Keene about that, including a bike shop, to hopefully get a
150 pool of bikes available for when Einbeck visitors come in the fall. The City could support this
151 going forward, because there is no bike share or bike rental service in town. Discussion ensued
152 about possible activities and ideas for the Einbeck visit in the fall.

153
154 Chair Mitchell stated that the pen-pal program at Fuller School now has 27 fourth graders
155 participating, between Einbeck and Keene. He continued that 27 fourth graders are sending each
156 other hand-written letters back and forth; teachers take photos of the handwritten letters and email

157 them to the pen-pals. The German teacher and the Keene teacher both have a waiting list because
158 there is so much interest. That is a good sign.

159

160 **5) Communications**

161

162 **6) Reports**

163

A. Treasurer Report

164

165 Mr. Kleiner reported that the appropriation account is still the same at \$12,000, but the PCC's
166 normal, everyday account is \$18,206.90. He continued that the only difference is the check to
167 KSC for \$580 for the funding for the van rental [that Ms. Howard mentioned earlier].

168

169 Councilor Giacomo made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Blomquist seconded the
170 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

171

172 **7) New Business**

173

174 Chair Mitchell asked if the PCC has ever considered trying to arrange a Zoom meeting for the PCC
175 and the Einbeck committee. Mr. Schoefmann replied that they talked about it earlier, quarterly
176 meetings between the Mayor, the Chair, himself, and so on and so forth. Chair Mitchell asked if
177 it is practical to do and if they want to do more. Discussion ensued. Mr. Blomquist suggested a
178 twice-yearly joint committee conversation. Others agreed and discussion continued about the
179 benefits and logistics of it.

180

181 **A. Discuss Additional Guidelines/Expectations to be added for people traveling from**
182 **Keene to Einbeck**

183

184 **8) Next Meeting – March 14, 2023**

185

186 **9) More Time**

187

A. Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities

188

189 Chair Mitchell asked if anyone has fundraising ideas or information. Mr. Schoefmann replied that
190 Taste of Keene is coming up. He asked if their participation at Stonewall Farm's event in October
191 is for outreach, or fundraising. Chair Greenwald replied fundraising. Discussion ensued.

192

193 Mr. Kleiner stated that beyond events, if the PCC wants to get serious about fundraising, they
194 would have to create a "Friends of the Einbeck Exchange" group outside of the City. Doing events
195 is one thing, but if they wanted to do an appeal letter or other things, it may be beyond the scope
196 of this group. Discussion ensued. Mr. Schoefmann stated that he would be happy to investigate
197 it with Mr. Kleiner.

198

199 **B. Pumpkin Fest Participation for Next Year**

200
201 Councilor Giacomo stated that the Pumpkin Fest organizers have created committees, and the
202 Vendor Committee will look into what the status looks like. He continued that for the first year,
203 they will not be bringing a ton of vendors in. Food vendors, especially, will probably be rather
204 limited the first year. There will be an order for who gets reached out to, starting with groups like
205 the Swampbats, the earliest on board. He cannot promise that the PCC will make the cut. He is
206 not on the Vendor Committee and it is the one committee that does not yet have a chair.

207
208 **C. Planning for “Taste of Keene” for Next Year. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free**
209 **use of grill and donation for brats and kraut, volunteers**

210
211 **10) Adjournment**

212
213 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:48 PM.

214
215 Respectfully submitted by,
216 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

217
218 Reviewed and edited by,
219 Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison