

City of Keene
New Hampshire

PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

5:00 PM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Mari Brunner
Kürt Blomquist
Doris McCollester
Gregg Kleiner
Gerald Lins, Alternate
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Mayor George Hansel

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Members Not Present:

Dawn Thomas-Smith
Derek Blunt

1) Call to Order

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

2) Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required)

Roll call was conducted. Yves Gakunde was present as a guest.

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – July 11, 2023

Mr. Kleiner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 11, 2023. Mr. Lins seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

4) Board Business

**A) Activity Planning for Upcoming Exchange with Einbeck in Keene –
September 22 to September 30, 2023**

Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Schoefmann to give an update from the planning group.

Mr. Schoefmann showed the spreadsheet with the itinerary and went through each day's activities.

Friday, September 22

Mr. Schoefmann stated that most of the Einbeck visitors (10) arrive on this day, in Boston. Discussion ensued about the size of the bus and whether it is adequate or if another vehicle is needed. Chair Mitchell stated that he will be picking up some guests in Springfield or Hartford and bringing them to Keene. He continued that he will need to coordinate with Councilor Giacomo about this.

Saturday, September 23

Mr. Schoefmann stated that this is the "local orientation" day. He outlined the day's activities and who is coordinating/facilitating them. Discussion ensued about the activities and events, their timing, and the tasks that still need to be done to finalize them.

Sunday, September 24

Mr. Schoefmann stated that this is the "choose your own adventure" day, with various options for the Einbeck guests to choose from. He gave information about the possible activities for that day. Discussion ensued. PCC members shared additional ideas for activities.

Monday, September 25

Mr. Schoefmann gave information about the Massachusetts day trip planned for this day.

Tuesday, September 26

Mr. Schoefmann outlined the "local business/government tours" day. Discussion ensued about the activities and items that still need to be coordinated. Discussion ensued about the details of the dinner event.

Wednesday, September 27

Mr. Schoefmann stated that this is the White Mountains day. He gave more information about the timing and logistics of the day's activities.

Thursday, September 28

Mr. Schoefmann stated that this day is the trip to the Seacoast. Discussion ensued about the activities in NH and ME. Councilor Giacomo spoke about the difficulties setting up the dinner, and asked for assistance from other PCC members. Discussion ensued.

Friday, September 29

Mr. Schoefmann stated that Friday is the "free day/farewell" and includes optional pickle ball. Discussion ensued about the farewell dinner at Councilor Giacomo's house. The Einbeck visitors depart the following day.

Mr. Schoefmann asked if there were questions. Discussion ensued on transportation.

B) Budget and Coordinating Activities

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the budget is in the handout. He went through it and gave information about the estimated costs for the meals and activities for each day. Discussion ensued. PCC members asked questions, and made suggestions for some changes. Discussion continued about whom, other than the Einbeck guests, the PCC's budget covers and in which situations. Discussion ensued about the number of people who will be able to go on the Cog Railway and how that is decided.

Mr. Blomquist made a motion for the Partner City Committee spend up to \$10,000 for the Einbeck exchange in September 2023. Mayor Hansel seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

C) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates

Chair Mitchell stated that they will skip over this item.

D) Update on Student Exchange - MC2 - October 9–22, 2023

Chair Mitchell stated that they will skip over this item as well, since Derek Blunt is not here.

5) Communications

Chair Mitchell spoke about how the Einbeck travelers are excited to come, and travel preparations are going well.

6) Reports

A) Treasurer Report

7) New Business

A) Discuss additional guidelines/expectations to be added for people from Keene traveling to Einbeck. Subcommittee members: Michael Giacomo, Doris McColleston, and Gerald Lins

8) Next Meeting – September 12, 2023

Chair Mitchell asked if meeting on September 12 works for people. PCC members replied yes.

9) More Time

A) Fundraising ideas/opportunities

B) Pumpkin Fest, potential fundraising opportunity. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free use of grill and donation for brats and krauts, volunteers

C) Update on other future exchange ideas – YMCA/youth centers, pickle ball, dance

10) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Britta Reida, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison