

**CITY OF KEENE
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, October 10, 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:** approval of meeting minutes for September 12, 2023.
4. **Board Business:**
 - a.) Pumpkin Fest - planning fund-raising opportunity. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free use of grill and donation for brats and kraut, volunteers.
 - b.) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook updates, Media outreach.
5. **Communications:**
6. **Reports:**
 - a) Treasurer Report
7. **New Business:**
 - a.) Discuss additional guidelines/expectations and Visa requirements to be added for people from Keene traveling to Einbeck.
 - b.) German language group and German Language CDs offering.
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is November 14, 2023
9. **More Time:**
 - a) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities
 - b) Update on other future exchange ideas – YMCA/Youth Centers – Pickle Ball – Dance.
 - c) Review of Student Exchange with MC₂. – October 9 – 22, 2023
 - d) Review of September’s Keene/Einbeck exchange w/Hosts.
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
Mayor George Hansel
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Kürt Blomquist
Derek Blunt
Doris McColleston
Gregg Kleiner (remote, lost connection
sometime between 5:05 and 5:19 PM)
Gerald Lins, Alternate
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair (arrived at
5:15 PM)

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Members Not Present:

Dawn Thomas-Smith
Mari Brunner

8
9
10 1) Call to Order

11
12 Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

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

15
16 Roll call was conducted.

17
18 3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – August 8, 2023

19
20 Mayor Hansel made a motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023. Councilor Giacomo
21 seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

22
23 4) Board Business

24 A) Activity Planning for upcoming exchange with Einbeck in Keene – Final
25 review for the September 22 to 30, 2023 exchange

26 Chair Mitchell stated that they are looking to make a couple changes to the schedule, particularly
27 Saturday the 30th. He continued that the plan is to leave at 10:00 AM, to do some activities in
28 Boston before the flight. Discussion ensued and others agreed with that change to the calendar.
29 Chair Mitchell proposed an addition to the schedule for Saturday the 23rd, and discussion
30 ensued. The PCC agreed with the addition of the pickle festival.

31
32 Chair Mitchell stated that the Einbeck guests have questioned whether they will be dressed up
33 enough for the activities, and he assured them to come as they are and it will be fine. Discussion
34 ensued about the importance of everyone having appropriate footwear for the mountain hike, and
35 a windbreaker or jacket.

36
37 Chair Mitchell stated that the other issue to discuss is the details of the pickup at the Boston
38 airport. Discussion ensued about who is driving which vehicle and related logistics, and about
39 drivers and transportation for the other activities on other days.

40
41 Chair Mitchell asked if they need to create an agenda for the welcoming meeting. Discussion
42 ensued about this as well as the farewell dinner.

43
44 Mr. Schoefmann arrived at 5:15 PM.

45
46 Discussion continued about food and drink at the farewell dinner. Councilor Giacomo asked for
47 people to make/bring/contribute side dishes and folding chairs if possible.

48

49 **B) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates**

50

51 **C) Update on Student Exchange with MC2 – October 9-22, 2023**

52 Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Blunt to give an update. Mr. Blunt reported that preparations for the
53 exchange are going well. He continued that they have finalized host families, for eight students
54 and two teachers, and the itinerary. Chair Mitchell asked if he could share the itinerary with the
55 PCC. Mr. Blunt replied yes. Discussion ensued.

56

57 **5) Communications**

58

59 Chair Mitchell stated that he has been communicating with Jürgen Herbst and a couple other
60 people, and they all seem excited.

61

62 **6) Reports**

63

64 **A) Treasurer's Report**

65

66 Chair Mitchell stated that they will skip this today.

67

68

- 69 7) **New Business**
70 A) **Discuss additional guidelines/expectations to be added for people from Keene**
71 **traveling to Einbeck**

72 Mr. Blomquist stated that they should add the upcoming Visa requirements to the guidelines.
73 That is something for folks to be thinking about. Chair Mitchell agreed. Discussion ensued.

- 74 8) **Next Meeting – October 10, 2023**

75
76 Chair Mitchell stated that in addition to the October 10 PCC meeting, he thinks they should have
77 a follow-up meeting for hosts, and PCC members should attend. Discussion ensued about
78 scheduling. PCC members proposed inviting the hosts to the October 10 PCC meeting instead,
79 and perhaps having the meeting at 6:00 PM instead of 5:00.

80

- 81 9) **More Time**
82 A) **Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities**

83

- 84 B) **Pumpkin Fest, potential fundraising opportunity. Brats and Krauts sales –**
85 **potential free use of grill and donation for brats and krauts, volunteers**

86

87 Councilor Giacomo gave an update on Pumpkin Fest, October 21. He stated that he got the PCC
88 a vendor spot, if the PCC wants it and is prepared to do it. He continued that they are signed up
89 to make and sell “German fare,” so it could be brats and krauts, or potato pancakes. If the PCC
90 does not want this vendor spot, he/the Pumpkin Fest organizers need to know in the next few
91 days. Discussion ensued about who is available. Chair Mitchell stated that it sounds like at least
92 three PCC members are available. Councilor Giacomo gave information about the next meeting
93 for the vendors and what the PCC needs to do to prepare for the event. Discussion continued,
94 and Councilor Giacomo recommended creating a working group to prepare for the event.

95

- 96 C) **Update on other future exchange ideas – YMCA/Youth Centers – Pickle Ball**
97 **– Dance**

98

- 99 D) **Other**

100

101 Mr. Lins stated that he has a full set of German (language learning) CDs to share, if anyone is
102 interested, and he will bring it to the next meeting. Mr. Schoefmann stated that a beginning
103 German language group has been meeting at Brewbakers. Chair Mitchell gave more
104 information about it, and recommended it. Discussion ensued.

105

- 106 10) **Adjournment**

107

108 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

109

110 Respectfully submitted by,

- 111 Britta Reida, Minute Taker
- 112
- 113 Reviewed and edited by,
- 114 Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison