

**CITY OF KEENE
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

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: April 9, 2024.
4. **Board Business:**
 - a.) 1. Einbeck Exchange – continued discussion about travel plans for October 10th – 19th. Final confirmation of attendance for those planning to participate - for Group Ticket purchase.
 2. Further discussion – Einbeck contingent and the final number of individuals traveling.
 - b.) Update on Student Exchange: June 15th – 28th – *Derek*
 - c.) Media outreach – *Dawn*.
 - d.) Update on Future Exchanges – Soccer, Dance, and Youth Exchange – *John*
5. **Communications:**
6. **Reports:**
 - a) Treasurer Report – *Gregg*
7. **New Business:**
 - a.) Pumpkin Fest (October 12th) – further discussion/volunteers (have established 6) and need C&S contact for donation of Bratts, knockwurst, etc.
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is July 9, 2024 (if needed)
9. **More Time:**
 - a) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities
 - b) Juliana Dodson – letter of invitation to attend Hannah Grimes Center’s *Radically Rural*. – *Mayor Kahn*
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Councilor Andrew Madison (arrived at 5:17
PM)
Michael Giacomo
Mari Brunner
Doris McCollester
Gerald Lins
Derek Blunt, Alternate

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Mayor Jay Kahn

Members Not Present:

George Hansel
Dawn Thomas-Smith
Gregg Kleiner

8
9
10 **1) Call to Order**

11
12 Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

13
14 **2) Roll Call**

15
16 Roll call was conducted. Chair Mitchell welcomed guests Gerald and Bernadette Kuhn.

17
18 **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – April 9, 2024**

19
20 Mr. Giacomo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2024. Mr. Lins
21 seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

22
23 Chair Mitchell brought item 7.B) forward and asked to hear from Mayor Kahn.
24
25

26 **7) New Business**

27 **B. Juliana Dodson – letter of invitation to attend Hannah Grimes Center’s**
28 ***Radically Rural – Mayor Kahn***

29
30 Mayor Kahn reported that he invited the German delegation to invite the Radically Rural event
31 this year, but no one is able to attend this time. Discussion ensued. Chair Mitchell spoke about
32 his conversation with Jürgen Herbst, who told him the German delegation would be very
33 interested, as they, too, are facing the same issues (that Radically Rural addresses). He
34 continued that there will be an opportunity, this visit, for people to connect with a likeminded
35 group. It will be a good connection and might even lead to an agricultural exchange in the
36 future. Mr. Giacomo spoke about how Radically Rural could be incorporated into the schedule
37 during this year’s visit, if they are intentional about it and if there are individuals from Einbeck
38 with a genuine interest in it. It could be expensive to have the whole group go to it. Chair
39 Mitchell asked about the cost. Mayor Kahn replied that Radically Rural is willing to waive the
40 fee for a couple of people this time, not necessarily the whole group. Discussion continued about
41 how it would probably not be of interest/relevant to the whole group.

42
43 Chair Mitchell thanked Mayor Kahn and returned to the regular agenda order.

44
45 **4) Board Business**

46 **A) Einbeck Exchange**

47 ***i. Einbeck Exchange – continued discussion about travel plans for October 10-19.***
48 ***Final confirmation of attendance for those planning to participate – for group ticket***
49 ***purchase.***

50
51 Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Schoefmann for an update. Mr. Schoefmann reported on how he has
52 looked into the group travel options for booking 16-18 plane tickets, the information he has
53 received from airlines, and the complications. One has a good price but flights do not land in the
54 preferred location. He continued that they probably will not be able to meet the group travel
55 request. He asked Chair Mitchell to speak to the alternative – giving people the directive to
56 arrive in Hanover on Thursday morning (October 10).

57
58 Chair Mitchell stated that the other option is for people to travel individually. He gave
59 information about costs and schedules. He continued that it would simplify the process in terms
60 of not needing to have the City buy the tickets and then reimburse the City and go through all
61 those hoops. They can follow Mr. Schoefmann’s research, which Mr. Schoefmann has worked
62 hard on. People traveling to Einbeck would need to commit to arriving on the same day, and
63 give Ms. Mattson their arrival information. Ms. Mattson would make a list of arrival times,
64 which would then be given to Einbeck. If everyone arrives in Hanover within a certain
65 timeframe, they would wait a few hours for the ride. Einbeck folks would probably be able to
66 make two trips on that day to pick people up. This would be more convenient. He spoke of the
67 problems with train travel.

68

69 Chair Mitchell stated that he hopes by the end of this meeting Ms. Mattson will have a list of
70 who will be traveling. He continued that he hopes they can help her put out the message to all
71 travelers that they need to send her a photograph of themselves, a short biography, and the details
72 of their travel plans/arrival times, so all of that can be relayed to Einbeck.

73
74 Mr. Giacomo asked if they can come up with a list of two or three recommended flights for
75 individuals to book tickets on. Others agreed. Chair Mitchell stated that he can send out some
76 flight information.

77
78 *ii. Further Discussion – Einbeck contingent and the final number of individuals*
79 *traveling.*

80

81 Andrew Madison arrived at 5:17 PM.

82

83 Mr. Schoefmann stated that sometimes there are more people interested in traveling than there
84 are available spots, and how the PCC has handled this in the past is to compile a list of everyone
85 who has been invited and then talk about who fits the PCC’s engagement strategies and the plan
86 for increasing the exchange bandwidth. For example, there is interest in a Rotarian exchange,
87 dance exchange, and more. They have a list of 19 people who are interested in traveling, and 18
88 spots. He continued that he believes he has solved the situation this time because as he
89 mentioned last time, he himself probably would not be able to go on this trip. He is withdrawing
90 from the trip. Chair Mitchell replied that he is sorry to hear that. He continued that Mr.
91 Schoefmann was instrumental to the last trip and he was looking forward to his help with this
92 trip.

93

94 Ms. Mattson asked why the list includes three Rotary Club members instead of two. Chair
95 Mitchell replied that there are actually four. He continued that two were nominated by the
96 committees from the two Rotary partnerships. One is Kristen Leach. Chair Mitchell spoke
97 positively about Ms. Leach’s strong interest in a dance exchange and the work she is already
98 doing for that. She has already organized to host Germans in Keene this fall and to go to
99 Germany next year. She will be a great addition to the trip. He continued that hopefully Rotary
100 club members can make good connections in Einbeck this year that lead to a Rotary exchange in
101 coming years.

102

103 Mr. Schoefmann stated that Mr. Giacomo was able to coordinate the brewery outreach that they
104 have been talking about for quite some time. Mr. Giacomo reported that he spoke with six of the
105 nine brewers the committee had identified within a half hour of Keene. He continued that many
106 are very interested in doing an exchange in the future, but cannot do it this October. The owner
107 of Modest Man Brewing agreed that if another brewery did not step up, he would be happy to
108 send the general manager of the Keene location and the brewer. The general manager would be
109 focused more on the logistics of the exchange itself, and the brewer would be able to “talk shop”
110 about the brewing. He gave more information about his conversation with Modest Man,

111 including clarifying that the goal is representing brewers in the Keene region and working to
112 start a brewery exchange. Mr. Schoefmann thanked Mr. Giacomo. Discussion continued.

113
114 Discussion continued about the list of 18 people. Chair Mitchell named and spoke briefly about
115 each person on the list and the rationale for including them. He stated that each traveler needs to
116 write a brief biography, not like a resume, but more of a social thing, including details that would
117 assist the Einbeck committee in matching travelers with hosts. For example, any needs regarding
118 health, mobility, food, issues with pets, and so on and so forth.

119
120 Mayor Kahn left at 5:30 PM.

121
122 Mr. Schoefmann stated that he also included the [inaudible] proposed to do their planning with.
123 He asked if Mr. Giacomo could send that to [?]. Mr. Giacomo replied yes, he will touch base
124 with him soon about the travel information and the bios.

125
126 Chair Mitchell gave brief information about what he knows of the itinerary so far. He continued
127 that much of the itinerary will be based on who is coming and what the bios are. Einbeck is
128 trying to steer the itinerary based on what people express in their bios, so getting those bios to
129 Ms. Mattson is critical.

130
131 Chair Mitchell spoke about having meetings for the travelers in the time leading up to the trip.
132 Discussion ensued about how many meetings to have, when, and where. Chair Mitchell, Mr.
133 Lins, and Ms. Mattson expressed willingness to host a meeting. Chair Mitchell asked Mr.
134 Giacomo to look into the possibility of having a meeting at Modest Man. Mr. Giacomo agreed.
135 Discussion continued about planning the meetings.

136
137 Mr. Schoefmann made a motion to accept the list of nominees as the traveling official delegation
138 for the fall exchange. Mr. Giacomo seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

139
140 Ms. Brunner noted that Mr. Schoefmann's name needs to be taken off the list, if it has not
141 already been.

142
143 Chair Mitchell stated that he wants to say, again, for the record, that when they go to Einbeck,
144 each of them has the responsibility to really be driving toward making these exchanges happen.
145 He continued that they have not had a stronger year than this one. Ms. Mattson agreed. Chair
146 Mitchell continued that as it is going, it is going to get stronger. There is excitement on both
147 sides. This is the time for travelers to really focus on making and strengthening connections.

148
149 **B) Update on Student Exchange taking place June 15-28 – Derek**

150
151 Mr. Blunt reported that he just received the itinerary for the student exchange coming up in
152 Einbeck, which has a lot of great stuff. He continued that that has been shared with students and

153 families. Chair Mitchell asked him to share the itinerary with Ms. Mattson, who can share it
154 with the PCC. Mr. Blunt replied yes.

155
156 Mr. Blunt gave information about the group's travel plans on June 15th. He continued that there
157 are three committed drivers, but he is looking for a backup driver to call upon in case one of
158 those three cannot do it. He could let the person know by June 8 whether they will be needed.
159 Mr. Lins replied that he can be the backup driver. Mr. Schoefmann [??] stated that Mr. Blunt can
160 put him on the list as a backup driver, too.

161
162 Mr. Blunt stated that one of the students going on this exchange will be giving a presentation this
163 Friday on why he is ready to move to the next grade, which is how it works at the MC2 School.
164 He continued that the student will be talking about his involvement in the Einbeck exchange.
165 The PCC members are invited to the presentation.

166
167 **C) Media Outreach – Dawn**

168
169 Chair Mitchell stated that Ms. Thomas-Smith could not make the meeting.

170
171 **D) Update on Future Exchanges – Soccer, Dance, and Youth Exchange – John**

172
173 Chair Mitchell stated that they talked about dance and youth exchanges. He continued that
174 regarding soccer, he has not heard back (from Kate Bosley).

175
176 Mr. Schoefmann stated that he has not talked with Councilor Bosley, but he has talked with folks
177 who run some of the Cheshire United Soccer Club. He spoke about a group he is becoming
178 involved with, which includes players who know Wally (Secord).

179
180 **5) Communications**

181
182 **6) Reports**

183 **A) Treasurer Report - Gregg**

184
185 Chair Mitchell stated that he imagines the treasurer's report is fairly stable. Ms. Mattson replied
186 yes, no changes to report.

187
188 **7) New Business**

189 **A) Pumpkin Fest (October 12) – further discussion/volunteers (have established**
190 **6) and need C&S contact for donation of Bratts, knockwurst, etc.**

191
192 Chair Mitchell stated that they have strong support with Mr. Blunt and students and other people.
193 He continued that he is working on a connection with C&S to see about donations. Mr.
194 Schoefmann replied that Chair Mitchell can pass that off to him at some point, since Chair
195 Mitchell will not be in the country at the time of Pumpkin Fest. Chair Mitchell agreed. Mr.

196 Giacomo stated that the vendor form is live and someone will need to fill it out. Mr.
197 Schoefmann replied that he will. Discussion continued.

198
199 Chair Mitchell asked if there was any other new business.

200
201 Gerald Kuhn stated that at the last meeting, the PCC talked about coming up with swag. He
202 continued that he has an idea for stickers, and he brought a sketch that he made, to show the PCC
203 today. The design is based on the idea that Keene and Einbeck begins with the same letter that
204 Einbeck ends with. It is a design he is playing around with. PCC members thanked Mr. Kuhn
205 and complimented his design. Mr. Kuhn continued that he has ideas for other designs as well,
206 which could be stickers or buttons. The MC2 School can make these stickers and will give them
207 to the PCC as a donation. Brief discussion continued about other swag ideas.

208
209 **8) Next Meeting – June 11, 2024**

210
211 **9) More Time**
212 **A) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities**

213
214 **10) Adjournment**

215
216 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

217
218 Respectfully submitted by,
219 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

220
221 Reviewed and edited by,
222 Staff Member(s) Name(s), Title(s)