

**CITY OF KEENE  
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

Tuesday, December 10, 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: November 12, 2024
4. **Board Business:**
  - a.) Next exchange- dates, hosting duties, itinerary ideas
  - b.) Fundraising ideas and opportunities
  - c.) Choral exchange sponsorship consideration
5. **Communications:**
  - a)
6. **Reports:**
  - a) Treasurer Report – *Eric*
7. **New Business:**
  - a.)
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is January 14, 2024
9. **More Time:**
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

5:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair  
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair  
Doris McCollester  
Gerald Lins  
Derek Blunt  
Eric Weisenberger

Staff Present:

Nicole Howe, Executive Assistant

Mayor Jay Kahn

Members Not Present:

Gregg Kleiner  
Councilor Andrew Madison  
George Hansel  
Michael Giacomo  
Mari Brunner

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10 **1) Call to Order**

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

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

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16 Roll call was conducted.

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18 **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – October 8, 2024**

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20 Mr. Blunt noted a correction to the October meeting minutes: he is a full member, not an  
21 alternate.

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23 Mr. Schoefmann made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 8, 2024 as amended.

24 Mr. Blunt seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.  
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**4) Board Business**

**A) Pumpkin Fest Review – sales, discuss ideas/improvements for next year**

Mr. Blunt stated that they had a great turnout. Ms. Howe stated that the total profit was \$1,556, which is more than last year. Mr. Blunt replied that there is an additional \$500, from MC Squared’s card reader. Ms. McCollester stated that it was great, and spoke of her experiences of the event. Discussion ensued about the supplies, the volunteers, and ideas for next time. Chair Mitchell asked if Mr. Blunt could write down at least an estimate of the amount of supplies they had, and the amount they used, so they have a record to refer to for next time. Mr. Blunt replied yes. Ms. Howe asked him to send it to her, too, to keep on file. Ms. McCollester stated that she thinks they need to find a different way of handling money for next time, to keep it safe. Mr. Schoefmann thanked Mr. Blunt and everyone who volunteered at this event.

Mayor Kahn stated that the event for Jumanji’s 30-year anniversary will be in April. He continued that maybe the PCC would want to be present for that. Brief discussion ensued about that event.

**B) Review of October’s Keene/Einbeck exchange with travelers**

Chair Mitchell asked for feedback on the October exchange. Mayor Kahn praised the organizers’ work. Mr. Lins stated that he thought everything was great and his wife enjoyed the trip, too. He continued that sometimes, some people wished they had a little more time for shopping. That is something for Keene folks to keep in mind, too. The Mayor spoke positively about the four cities their Einbeck hosts brought them to. Discussion ensued. Chair Mitchell stated that their Einbeck hosts worried about not including Berlin, but the other cities were great, which is something for Keene organizers to think about – maybe trips do not need to be to Boston or New York. Discussion ensued about how Concord is a good location. Mr. Kuhn spoke about the differences between traveling with family, traveling as a tourist, and traveling as a delegate, as the latter comes with unique responsibilities. Discussion continued about how the trip was busy and tiring but in a good way, and how everyone was engaged and connected, and about what activities travelers especially liked. Discussion continued about ideas for activities when Einbeck travelers come to Keene.

Mr. Schoefmann asked when they should start discussing planning for the next exchange. Chair Mitchell replied that last time, Einbeck travelers came September 22 to 30. He continued that he suggests they try to match up with those dates. Discussion ensued about the dates, the events and holidays in Keene in the fall, the weather, the fall events in Einbeck to be aware of, the length of the visit, and so on and so forth. The PCC decided to suggest September 19 to 29 to the Einbeck group. Chair Mitchell stated that he will contact Einbeck to see what they think of those dates. Discussion continued about some benefits of those dates, such as the marathon, the Keene International Festival, and Pickle Festival.

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70 Chair Mitchell asked the PCC how many Einbeck guests they should plan for. He continued that  
71 Einbeck offered spots for 16 travelers from Keene. Mr. Schoefmann replied that he thinks they  
72 should match that. Others agreed. Brief discussion ensued about vehicles/transportation options.

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74 Chair Mitchell asked what the PCC thinks about including children when hosting. Discussion  
75 ensued. Mr. Schoefmann stated that he thinks the threshold would be about middle school-aged,  
76 not younger.

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78 Chair Mitchell asked if there was anything else to discuss related to the exchange. Mr. Kuhn  
79 stated that he had conversations with people in Einbeck about visiting the Cohen Center in  
80 Keene. Mr. Blunt stated that Tom White at the Cohen Center spoke with the students (visiting  
81 from Einbeck), and it was fantastic. Discussion ensued about the importance of the topic. The  
82 Mayor stated that Sonja Kreibich, the German consulate general from Boston, spoke recently at  
83 Kristallnacht (in Keene), and it went well. He continued that she would likely return to Keene  
84 for other events.

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86 **C) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates**

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88 **D) Future Exchange Ideas**

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90 Chair Mitchell stated that they have talked about many potential ideas for future exchanges, and  
91 it is great that there is so much enthusiasm. He continued that he would like to address the five  
92 that have been around for a while, which the Germans are on board with: ballroom dancing,  
93 soccer, marathon, police, and fire. The latter two have strong interest and the next visit from  
94 Einbeck will include a police officer and a firefighter.

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96 Mr. Schoefmann asked if these five topics/exchanges would be independent from the September  
97 visit from Einbeck. Chair Mitchell replied that he thinks these are committee projects that they  
98 hope to find people to hand them off to, similar to how Kristin Leach took off with the modern  
99 dance exchange once she figured it out and got on track. Mr. Schoefmann replied that typically,  
100 fire and police are part of the official delegation, whereas soccer would take more fostering and  
101 connecting with other groups. The marathon one, too, needs a little more structure and fostering.  
102 Discussion continued. Mr. Blunt stated that he knows there is interest, from both Keene and  
103 Einbeck, in some sort of horse/equestrian exchange. He continued that he himself knows little  
104 about the topic but can look into it. Mr. Schoefmann spoke about another one to add to the list is  
105 connecting potential educators or people looking to do work exchange with opportunities locally.  
106 Discussion ensued about the role the PCC could play, such as helping find information.

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108 **5) Communications**

109 **A) Peace Fountain at Central Square**

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111 Ms. Howe stated that Andy Bohannon, Deputy City Manager, reports that the fountain at Central  
112 Square is getting a redesign. She continued that the current fountain has plaques  
113 commemorating the partner city, which will be incorporated into the new design. This is being  
114 done through Monadnock Family Services, the Rotary Clubs, and the Monadnock Interfaith  
115 Project. The new fountain will revolve around the partnership between the two cities. Details  
116 are still being worked on.

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118 **6) Reports**

119 **A) Treasurer Report**

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121 Chair Mitchell stated that the report is that Gregg Kleiner has resigned from the PCC. Ms. Howe  
122 replied yes. Mr. Schoefmann stated that they need a new treasurer now. Mr. Weisenberger  
123 replied that he will do it.

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125 **7) New Business**

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127 Chair Mitchell asked if there is new business that should be moved to the Board Business agenda  
128 item. Mr. Schoefmann replied the exchanges, and probably a beginning discussion about hosting  
129 duties and what that will look like, for the September visit. Brief discussion ensued.

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131 **8) Next Meeting: December 10, 2024**

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133 **9) More Time**

134 **A) Fundraising Ideas and Opportunities**

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136 Mr. Schoefmann suggested moving this item to the next meeting's agenda so they can talk about  
137 ideas.

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139 **10) Adjournment**

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

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143 Respectfully submitted by,  
144 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

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146 Reviewed and edited by,  
147 Nicole Howe, Executive Assistant