

City of Keene
New Hampshire

PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

5:00 PM

**2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall**

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Mari Brunner
Gregg Kleiner
Kürt Blomquist, Ex-Officio

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Members Not Present:

Lena Kridlo
Dawn Thomas-Smith
Mayor George Hansel

1) Call to Order

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

2) Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required)

Roll call was conducted. Chair Mitchell welcomed guest Elizabeth Cardine from the MC2 Charter School.

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – April 13, 2022 (no official meeting held May 17)

Mr. Schoefmann made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2022. Mr. Blomquist seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

4) Board Business

A. Planning for Keene Delegation to Einbeck – October 7-15, 2022

Chair Mitchell stated that he has information that has all been transferred to the Einbeck committee, in the last handout from Ms. Mattson. He continued that the Einbeck committee is already looking at hosts. He asked if anyone has been contacted yet by a potential host. Mr. Schoefmann replied that he does not think so. Chair Mitchell replied that that might be

happening soon. He continued that if people who are traveling to Einbeck have travel arrangements already made, it would be helpful if they would share the information with him, and he will share it with the committee. Even though the Keene delegation expressed that they will be getting from the airport to Einbeck on their own, the Einbeck committee still would like to be helpful and may offer a couple shuttles. The sooner the Einbeck folks know about the Keene folks' travel arrangements, the better, so they can plan. Thus, he will share any travel information he has with the Einbeck folks.

Discussion ensued about people's travel arrangements, flight times, train tickets, and so on and so forth. Ms. Brunner asked if the PCC could get a list of everyone who is going on the trip. Chair Mitchell replied that Ms. Mattson sent him the list; he will forward it to everyone else. He read the list of names aloud, and discussion ensued. PCC members noted that Mayor Hansel can no longer go, and thus the Councilors who will be traveling should talk with him about who will be appointed in his place.

B. MC2 – School's Interest in Exchange Involvement – Elizabeth and Derek will be traveling with the group – update

Elizabeth Cardine stated that she does not yet have any information to share, as she has not yet heard from the contact (in Einbeck), so she and Derek have not yet made plans or moved on anything. Chair Mitchell replied that he will send that person's contact information to Ms. Cardine.

C. KSC Music Department – Interest in Exchange for 2023 (KSC to Einbeck)

Chair Mitchell stated that Sandra (Howard) has been keeping him up to date on the emails. He continued that she did a nice job bringing a group (from Keene to Einbeck) and hosting a group (from Einbeck in Keene) in the past, so he is sure she is self-sufficient; she would just like some help. Ms. Brunner asked if it is correct that she is not going in October but has gone in the past. Chair Mitchell replied that she has been on an official exchange, and she is looking to host a group in 2023, so he assumes she will be traveling in the near future. Discussion continued.

D. Discuss "Taste of Keene" for next year. Brats and Kraut sales.

Chair Mitchell asked if there is news about next year. Mr. Kleiner replied, speaking on behalf of Keene Young Professionals Network (KYPN), that he does not see how it would be a problem [if the PCC wanted to sell brats and kraut]; there are just going to be Health Department and Fire Department inspections. They will have to coordinate that. KYPN are open to the idea of the PCC switching to selling food. It is do-able, and just a matter of timing and the inspections. Discussion ensued. PCC members noted that they used to sell food at Pumpkin Fest, and did the inspections, and it worked well. Discussion ensued about insurance issues.

E. PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates – if any

Chair Mitchell stated that they will have to put this topic on hold until Ms. Thomas-Smith is present. Mr. Schoefmann stated that Ms. Thomas-Smith had asked if they need something like more posts to share. Mr. Blomquist replied that they probably should start posting about the upcoming exchange. Discussion ensued about the kind of content, related to the upcoming exchange that can be posted. Chair Mitchell stated that they can share that they are bringing school administrators, business and industry people, representatives of Keene government, are excited about re-starting the exchanges, and so on and so forth. He continued that they could post a bit about the donations from the Rotary Club in Keene and how people traveling to Einbeck are excited to see the results in Einbeck of Keene's support, and that a representative from the Rotary Club will be going and can report back on the progress. Discussion continued about other possible social media content, such as information about COVID-19 recovery in Einbeck and Germany, encouragement for anyone who is interested in participating in the exchanges or joining the PCC to reach out, and photos taken during the exchange.

Ms. Brunner asked how many vacancies the PCC has right now. Mr. Schoefmann replied that they have room for two regular members and three alternates. Discussion continued.

5) Communications

Chair Mitchell stated that he hears from Jürgen Herbst once or twice a week, and the Einbeck committee's plans are going well. He continued that Mr. Herbst's biggest concern is the need to have the Keene delegation's travel information. He would not be surprised if (people traveling from Keene) start to hear from potential Einbeck hosts very soon.

6) Reports

A. Treasurer Report

Mr. Kleiner stated that there is not much to report. He continued that the PCC's balance is \$5,000 in one account, and \$19,083.42 in the other.

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

7) New Business

A. Brewery Connections – Discuss the Last Two Membership Slots. Branch and Blade or Elm City (Will)

Mr. Schoefmann stated that Einbecker [Brewery] is such a big part of Einbeck's identity, and there is blossoming craft brewery scene happening in the Keene area, so connecting breweries from both Keene and Einbeck would be good. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Blomquist suggested encouraging that relationship when a delegation from Einbeck comes to Keene. He continued that by August, the people going to Einbeck should sit down and make a list of the topics they

want to connect with people about in Einbeck. He assumes that Mr. Herbst will sit down with [whoever is filling in for Mayor Hansel] and go over a list of what the Einbeck committee's thoughts and topics are for the future. For example, when an Einbeck delegation comes to Keene, they might want to tour and spend an evening at a brewery.

Chair Mitchell stated that golf might be another topic to connect with. Discussion continued. Mr. Blomquist stated that typically during the trip to Einbeck, there is time for the Keene PCC to sit down and talk with Einbeck's PCC about everyone's thoughts for future activities.

8) Next Meeting – Next Meeting is September 13, 2022 (Typically PCC does not meet in July or August, may still want to meet in July or August to discuss travel)

9) More Time

A. Student pen-pal ideas

Chair Mitchell stated that this is postponed.

B. Discuss Keene Sentinel's James Rinker, Digital Community Engagement Journalist – Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges

Chair Mitchell stated that he and Ms. Mattson have emailed James Rinker but have not heard back. He asked if anyone else has information. Others replied no.

C. Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities

Mr. Schoefmann stated that fundraising is important; it is just about trying to find the right opportunity. Ms. Brunner stated that it seems like selling bratwurst will be a lot of effort. She asked if it is worth it. Chair Mitchell replied yes, it worked, and brought in a lot of money when they did it at Pumpkin Fest. He continued that some of the people who were previously involved expressed to him that they would be still able to help. Discussion continued.

Chair Mitchell stated that something else that brought the PCC money was raffling off T-shirts, hats, keychains, and so on and so forth. Mr. Schoefmann questioned whether the PCC can make a request before the October exchange happens, so they can purchase items (to use for fundraising). Mr. Blomquist stated that the group that is going to Einbeck should meet, at least in August, to finalize as much as they can. Discussion ensued about the idea, which items would be best to buy, how much to authorize and when, and so on and so forth. Mr. Blomquist spoke about how they also need to think about the gift and whoever is representing Mayor Hansel will be bringing to present to Einbeck's mayor – for example, one year the official gift from the City of Keene to Einbeck was a tile with scenes from Keene for a "painting of the square." And Einbeck has given gifts to Keene. The PCC will need to plan for purchasing gifts, and come up with ideas for what the gifts could be, keeping transportability in mind.

After some more discussion, Mr. Blomquist made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$500 for the purchase of fundraising items from Einbeck. Councilor Giacomo seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Blomquist asked if they want to make a similar motion for up to \$500 for the official gift from the PCC. Others replied that they should figure out what the gift will be first. Mr. Blomquist stated that it would be an official gift from the City of Keene to the mayor of Einbeck, presented by the PCC, coming out of the Einbeck \$5,000 (account). Discussion continued about how the PCC will have to do that in September, and about gift ideas.

Discussion ensued about whether the PCC should meet in July and/or August, or if just the people planning to travel to Einbeck should meet unofficially. The group decided to have an official PCC meeting on Tuesday, July 12 (which was ultimately canceled in lieu of an official meeting on July 20 for travelers only at John Mitchell's home), in addition to a separate, private meeting of the people traveling. PCC members noted that the private meeting of people who are traveling to Einbeck cannot have a quorum of PCC members present. There will be no official August meeting of the PCC.

Chair Mitchell asked Ms. Cardine if all of her questions, so far, are taken care of. Ms. Cardine replied yes, it is just a matter of getting in contact with folks (in Einbeck). Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Schoefmann if he could create some sort of text group or email chain so the people who will be traveling can connect with each other. Mr. Schoefmann replied yes. Chair Mitchell stated that Mr. Schoefmann can get the list of names, and people's contact information, from Ms. Mattson. Chair Mitchell expressed the importance of everyone forwarding him their travel information as soon as they have it. Mr. Blomquist added that people should CC: Ms. Mattson when they email that information to Chair Mitchell.

D. Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, Dance, Rugby

10) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Britta Reida, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Helen Mattson, Staff liaison