

Jasper Partnership Commission

Meeting Minutes 9/28/2022

7:30 am – Pfaffenweiler Room

ROLL CALL

Max Verkamp

Mayor

Lisa Bower

Stan Jochum via phone

Steffi Schmuecker

Andrea Gramelspacher

Kim Lottes

Gina Schuetter

Guests:

Sandy Wehr

Mary Leah Siegel

Jurgen Gutgsell

Darren Patterson

Matthias Hilger

CALL TO ORDER / MINUTES

Max called the meeting to order at 7:36am.

Kim Lottes made the motion to accept the minutes from the May 17, 2022, Partnership Commission meeting. Gina Schuetter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Words from Stan Jochum

Stan Jochum thanked Mayor Vonderheide and Max Verkamp for the support and help he received. Stan said it was a complete surprise receiving the Federal Republic of Germany Friendship Award presented by Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger of the Federal Republic of Germany. Stan also expressed his appreciation for all the support he has received. Max Verkamp said it was well deserved and thanked him for the outstanding work Stan has done for the Partnership.

Introduction of Jurgen Gutgsell, Faust Gymnasium – Staufen Principal

Jurgen Gutgsell,, who has been Principal since 2018 and teaches Math and Music, stopped by to introduce himself.

Jurgen Gutgsell thanked everyone for the warm welcome and very much appreciates the partnership and what it means to the school. The student exchange means a lot to both Jasper and Staufen. Max Verkamp presented a partnership gift, wine box, to Jergen Gutgsell.

Recap of 2022 Trip

Max Verkamp presented Lisa Bower a partnership gift, wine box, as a token of thanks for all the behind scenes she worked on for the Partnership trip.

- Pfaffenweiler did an excellent job hosting and set the bar high. Every detail was taken care of and was well thought out and planned.
- When we go back over in future years, do we look at an organized group with so many individuals going on their own. Mary Leah Seigel explained a different way to plan. She has contact information for an individual who books multiple trips, but the group would end up at same place at the right time. Food is not included, but the price is very reasonable.
- Mayor Vonderheide mentioned he is proud of everyone from Jasper.
- Max Verkamp had a proud Dad moment as Lauren, his daughter, translated Max's presentations at the Celebration event for him.
- There were many great celebrations through the week while in Pfaffenweiler.
- Pfaffenweiler gifted Jasper with a clock, however they are still working on shipping it.

Jackie's Travel returned the deposit from the trip.

Download your pictures via the link provided below so that we have a full collection of memories from the trip.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1rFPx4drYHyJeGqxKzeqKPo359HwiJYpl>

Dieter Hahn sent his draft notes to Matthias Hilger. Matthias, Max Verkamp, and Mayor Vonderheide will be meeting to discuss the draft and will get back to Dieter.

Dieter Hahn's term will end in December, Lukas Mahler will be the new Mayor starting November 21st, 2022.

New Year's Celebration with Pfaffenweiler

Mayor Vonderheide discussed a New Year's Eve celebration with Pfaffenweiler. We would have a Partnership signing from 11am-noon via Zoom with Pfaffenweiler as they ring in the New Year. In future years, he would like to have a bigger celebration.

2025 Visit from Pfaffenweiler

This will be the 40th anniversary and it takes about two years to plan. The Partnership Commission is the group who organizes the trip and typically spends about \$10,000. This money is from the German Club and Strassenfest through the years.

We want to be sure they receive the excellent welcome they gave us.

A few discussions we need to start in January:

- Gift to Pfaffenweiler
- Gift to visitors
- Activities
- Will there be a theme
- Will identify different committees to help plan
- Nail down the days they will be in Jasper so we can get Save the Dates out
 - Strassenfest is from 7/31-8/3 in 2025 possibly have them arrive on Wednesday and depart that Tuesday. We could hold the Partnership meeting on Sunday evening.
- Options for host and/or hotels

Discussed having a stone carver activity and can tie it into a gift as well. The Mayor of Pfaffenweiler is automatically the President of the Stone Carver's group.

RWB Music Festival

Matthias Hilger brought up the idea of having a food booth at the RWB Music Festival next year. The stand would sell brats and hot dogs to raise money for Sister Cities. Matthias has been in contact with Jay Baker is on the planning committee for the RWB Music Festival.

German Apprentice Model in the US

Mayor discussed the possibilities of looking into the German Apprentice Model that is done through the German American Chambers of Commerce. This could be a Dubois Strong project. Myriam Klein with the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest shared how other areas of the countries are doing this, and it has a lot of momentum. We would really need to assemble a core group to move forward.

Other Business

Pfaffenweiler Mayoral Election was held this past Sunday, September 25th. Lukas Mahler will take his mayoral duties on November 21st. City of Jasper and Sister Cities will sign a card that Lisa Bower will create.

German Heritage Dinner is Thursday, October 6th at Klubhaus 61 at 6pm. Mayor will read a proclamation.

Video of the Pfaffenweiler immigration to the US that was shown at the schoolhouse over Strassenfest was successful. It was packed with about 30-35 people at each session. It was well received and will plan on having again in 2023.

Sister Cities is planning a fundraising event on February 11th for wine and food pairing. Details are still being worked out, but plan to have a save-the-date before Thanksgiving.

Matthias Hilger talked about the Wine Queen.

During our 37th Anniversary celebrations in Pfaffenweiler, we had the chance to meet the latest Regional Badische Weinkönigin Jessica Himmelsbach. She was a delight and did an incredible job presenting the wines we were tasting during the celebration evening. Her predecessor, Katrin Lang from the Pfaffenweiler neighbor town Ebringen and dating one of our young Cabinet Makers from Pfaffenweiler Mathias Blattmann, handed the reigns off to Jessica Himmelsbach just four weeks prior to our arrival for the anniversary celebrations. Now that Katrin Lang is no longer the regional queen, she has the opportunity to run for the title of German Wine Queen, for which she just qualified herself into the top five this past Friday.

Here is her Introduction Movie: <https://www.swrfernsehen.de/weinkoenigin/katrin-lang-100.html>

This coming Friday, 2:15pm our time she will be competing for the title which will be live streamed on TV The public, not just attending the evening on location, can vote for their favorite candidate for Deutsche Weinkönigin 2022 (German Wine Queen '22).

We can use any vote we can get for her. The problem with is, that we can't really vote in advance and as far as I understand the voting will open during the show, which Diana

from the Pfaffenweiler Rathaus expects the actual voting taking place starting around 4pm our time at the 'Dialog Forum" meinswr.de. <https://www.meinswr.de>

Put the date on the calendar and wait for more details from me as I hopefully will learn more as Friday draws closer. We can use any vote for Katrin we can get. Spread the word.

Kim Lottes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steffi Schmuecker seconded.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is tentative, October 26th at noon in the Council Chambers. Lisa Bower will send out a confirmation email when the date is confirmed.