

## Alexandria Sister Cities Committee June '25 Meeting – Monday 16 June 2025

- Meeting held at City Hall; called to order at approximately ~7:04 pm
- Attendance:
  - In-person: Erin Rauner, Carter Rice, Jennifer Eidemiller, Eric Compton, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Diana Price, Phil Dawit, Dale Medearis, Jose Mandujano, Paul Anderson, Mikke Norton, Whitney Umarov, Elisabeth Poppen
  - Excused Absence: Martha Davis (NOVA CC)
  - Absent: James Morrison, Vanessa Simpson (on the phone)
- James Morrison is retiring from the committee. Jenn will place Jim on the Volunteers list.
- Newsletter - Carter and James will coordinate.
- April '25 minutes – Motion to approve notes (Primary – Eric, Second – Dale) – Remove the E and change the S on Elisabeth's name
- May '25 minutes – Motion to approve notes (Primary - Alex, Second - Erin) – Mike Bianco (special guest – Alexandria Choral Society) and Elisabeth being on the phone
- June 7<sup>th</sup> '25 minutes (Bylaw's meeting) – Motion to approve notes (Primary - Eric, Second - Dale)
- Treasurer's Report – reviewed in the meeting.
- Alexandria Choral Society -
  - Jun 22<sup>nd</sup> – end of Jun, 30 members and 3 staff will be going to Scotland—Edinburgh, Dundee, and Ireland—Belfast and Dublin.
  - Jun 29<sup>th</sup> – Dundee Parish Church – joint concert with Dundee choir.
- Upcoming Events
  - 6/20, Friday – Swedish Embassy Mid-Summer
- Ongoing Business
  - Create business cards. There is a city printer. Jenn sent over the card template to Vanessa. Jenn noted that the team should use the social business cards in the meantime - Vanessa
  - Sep - Transatlantic Book Club (Helsingborg) – Diana
  - Sep/Oct - Swedish Coffee and Pastries – Buzz Bake Shop. Contact at the Swedish Chamber of Commerce – Vanessa and Carter – Motion to Proceed Forward and Pick Date (Primary - Eric, Second – Dale)
  - Early Oct – Helsingborg students are coming again and will be staying in Alexandria. St. Stephen's/St. Agnes would like to connect with Helsingborg.
  - Oct/Nov - Climate Office of Helsingborg and Alexandria Webinar. Working on an agenda in the next couple of weeks - Dale
  - Nov 8<sup>th</sup> - Strategic Plan with goals and calendar – Retreat 4 hours (weekend). Motion to schedule on November 8<sup>th</sup>, Noon to 4 PM, pick a location and add a recurring agenda item (Primary - Jenn, Second - Erin)
  - Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Soccer event. Motion to plan a soccer party. (Primary - Erin, Second – Alex)
  - Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Soccer match (Sweden and Scotland play simultaneously).
  - Nov 30<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Sister Cities – Dundee Hooley
  - TBD - Transatlantic Book Club (Dundee) – Diana
  - TBD (Late Summer/Early Fall) - Culinary – Baker (Laurel with Le Cordon Bleu background). Scottish baking on Zoom. Meeting 6/26 to start planning. – Jenn/Mikke
  - TBD - Dundee Tapestry and want to bring to Alexandria – existing space discussed won't work. Still figuring out where to hold this and the size of the exhibit – Eric
  - TBD (Fall) - Joint presentation of all three sister cities (Caen, Helsingborg, Dundee) on Viking history. – Carter and Eric (maybe Alex)
  - Gyumri, Armenia Updates
    - Alex is working on a student-to-student effort.
    - Aug – international and food festival – add a food truck (Armenian Bakery in WDC).
    - Viking history – Alex will look into that.
- New Business

- o Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Cider Festival – Elisabeth (Scottish), Alex (Gyumri)
- o Mar 2026 - Mayor's Cup – Dundee Rugby Event (Play at GW Middle School field). Sending 200 privately funded citizens. Should create an event.
- o Aug 2026 - Alexandria is sending a Rugby team with 200 privately funded citizens.
- o Bylaws Review –
  - Motion to amend the bylaws for when there is any time there is any mention of sister cities, add Gyumri, Armenia, to the bylaws (Primary - Alex, Second - Eric)
  - Motion to approve/adopt the bylaws as-is, and will not worry about small grammatical changes that do not affect the document's meaning. (Primary - Alex, Second - Eric)
- o Motion to cancel the July meeting (Primary - Eric, Second - Paul)
- o Ask John Chapman if September, October, or November will work to attend the next meeting.
- Next meeting: Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at City Hall, 7 PM.
- Meeting adjourned: ~8:35 pm

JLE

Secretary

16 June 2025