

## Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Oct '25 Meeting – Monday 20 October 2025

- Meeting held at City Hall; called to order at approximately ~7:02 pm
- Attendance:
  - In-person: Carter Rice, Jennifer Eidemiller, Dale Medearis, Paul Anderson, Whitney Umarov, Elisabeth Poppen, Vanessa Simpson, David Mitchell, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Phil Dawit, Mikke Norton, Diana Price
  - Excused Absence: Martha Davis (NOVA CC)
- Absent: Eric Compton
- October '25 minutes – Motion to approve notes (Motion – Paul, Second – Jenn) – \*footnote on Swedish Fika Coffee moving post-meeting to 11/23
- Treasurer's Report – provided
  - Motion to keep a small amount to pay final bills and consolidate the second account into the primary city account. (Motion - Jenn, Second – Alex)
  - Sean from the city wants to look at all the present/past years' documentation with Phil. Phil to connect with Sean.
- Complete Events
  - Charter School from Helsingborg visit.
  - Viking Event
  - Kenny Harris – Dundee Twinning Committee member, visited Alexandria
    - Paul met with him when he arrived in Alexandria.
    - Kenny is involved with theater workshop in Dundee (St. Stephen's/St. Agnus).
    - Trying to do something to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the future.
- Upcoming Events
  - Early November – Happy Hour with Caen Committee.
  - SAWS (Scottish America Women's Society) How to Kill a Witch Book Review
    - Oct 25<sup>th</sup> (3-5 PM) at the Lloyd House
    - ASCC will be responsible for drinks. (Carter, Paul)
  - Strategic Plan with Goal and Calendar (Dale)
    - Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM @ Junction – Strategy Session scheduled.
    - Draft agenda/questions – Dale will send this to Whitney to post.
    - Tenants/Sub-Committees – create this and have committee members sign up for what they are interested in.
  - Soccer Event
    - Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Our location we wanted didn't have the ESPN license needed; decided not to hold the event.
  - Transatlantic Book Club coming up: (Diana)
    - Nov 20<sup>th</sup> (1 PM) - Dundee book club
    - Nov 25<sup>th</sup> (1 PM) - Helsingborg book club
  - Cider Festival (Elisabeth/Alex)
    - Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> (1–5 PM) @ Lloyd House – Can only find Swedish cider.
    - Need two crews for two shifts (1<sup>st</sup> Shift - 1-3 PM or 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift - 3-5 PM)
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Shift - Vanessa, Alex, Eric, Paul
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift - Elisabeth, Eric, Paul, David
  - Swedish Fika Coffee (Vanessa/Carter)
    - Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> (3-5 PM) @ Buzz Bakeshop
    - Waiting on messaging for the event from the city.
    - Vanessa, Carter, Eric, Paul
- Ongoing/New Business
  - Gyumri (Alex)
    - Virtual pen pals – Had a Zoom event where pen pals was demonstrated. A Google Drive was started; Alexandria kids give the initial greeting through short content videos. This could be expanded with the Catholic school here. It could also be expanded to other Dundee/Helsingborg schools.
  - Scottish Walk
    - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Plan on 6 PM – Reception for the VIPs, Caen Committee, ASCC, OHA, etc.
      - Whitney wants to confirm the schedule for the Lord and Lady Provost.
      - Elisabeth to work on booking a location.
    - Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Parade. VIPs (Lord and Lady Provost) and the Vice Data Chair will be coming again this year. OHA is planning a dinner (which can include a plus one).

- City Hall will not be available in 2026. We will be meeting at the Lloyd House. Motion to meet per the below schedule. (Motion – Paul, Second – Jenn)
  - o January 12<sup>th</sup>
  - o February 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - o Whitney will send a poll for the rest of the year’s meetings.
- Budget - the fiscal 2027 budget process is kicking off. Need to submit before Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - o Provide feedback to the City Manager about the budget.
  - o The input goes to the Chair (Eric) to present.
  - o One-minute public hearing – have this ready for February 2026.
- United States 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - o Sails on the Potomac (Phil, David)
    - ☐ June 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> - We should plan this now. Whitney to connect Phil with the Development officer.
    - ☐ Lloyd House is on hold for an event on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 6-10 PM
- Note—all communications need to go through the Office of Communication. Our committee will need to plan accordingly (at least two weeks in advance to get communications through).
- Next meeting: Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at City Hall, 7 PM.
- Meeting adjourned: ~8:28 pm

JLE

Secretary

20 October 2025