**Alexandria Sister Cities Committee – May 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Lloyd House
**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026
**Time:** 7:02-8:19 PM

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

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**2. Attendance**

**Present:** Dale Medearis, Whitney Umarov, Katelyn Bellus, Carter Rice, Paul Anderson, David Anderson, Alina Launchbaugh, Lauren Smith, David Mitchell, Kate McMahon, Elisabeth Poppen, Phil Dawit, Vanessa Simpson

**Absent:** None
**Excused:** Eric Compton, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes
**Guest:** Pat Scherschel

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**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

April 2026 minutes approved.

- Motion: Kate McMahon
- Second: Dave Anderson

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- Current balance: $1,074.52
- Whitney - living balance: $12,263
    - Whitney is seeking approval for additional funding, resets on July
- Reimbursements from Whisky Tasting pending

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**5. Subcommittee Updates**

**Whisky Tasting Debrief**

- Create a checklist for next year's tasks
- Excess food remained after the event
- All tickets sold; event served as good advertising/public outreach
- No councilmembers attended

**Mount Vernon Community Event (Lauren Smith)**

- Printed materials were distributed.
- The event was well attended, with significant interest from children and families.
- Alex and Lauren will form an Education Subcommittee.

**Swedish Grant Update (Carter)**

- Eric and Carter submitted grant applications for the Fika event and Swedish Band event.
- Notification is expected in July.

**Music of the Revolution Concert**

(Scottish/French/Swedish music)

- Scheduled for June 18, 6:00–10:00 PM at the Lyceum.
- Subcommittee members: Kate, Phil, and David.
- Phil will schedule a planning meeting prior to the event.

**International Trips**

- Eric and David Mitchell will attend the Dundee Rugby Trip and associated networking event.
- Carter and David Mitchell are discussing a potential Sweden trip in June 2027.

**Strategy Subcommittee**

- Whitney submitted the strategic plan to City Council.
- The first webinar was considered successful.
- Future webinars should better accommodate East Coast scheduling.
- Dale requested webinar slides and a permanent location for broader public viewing.
    - Whitney can upload materials to the City website.
    - Vanessa will assist Whitney with posting webinar slides online.

**Social Media (Vanessa)**

- No updates.

**Gyumri / Sports Update (Alex)**

- No updates.

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**6. Events**

**Sister City Dinner with Caen**
(Elisabeth / Katelyn)

- Event at Lloyd House postponed to October 3.

- Elisabeth will prepare a Swedish dish.
- Event will feature tastes from each Sister City.

**Fika Event**
(Carter)

- Scheduled for October 25 at Buzz Bakery.
- Venue cost: $300 for two hours.
    - **Motion approved for venue reservation.**
        - Motion: Carter
        - Second: Vanessa
        - Reimbursement may be available if the grant is approved.

**D-Day Commemoration**

- Organized by Caen.
- Scheduled for Sunday, May 31, approximately 1:00–4:00 PM.
- No committee members are currently able to participate.

**World Cup Event**
(Alex)

- Alex is organizing a June World Cup event with a cash bar.
- No updates due to absence.

**Sails on the Potomac**
(Elisabeth, Paul, David, Phil, Lauren)

- Scheduled for June 12.
- Whitney reserved a full booth.
- Paul will send an email to the group with additional details.

**Midsummer Event**
(Elisabeth / Vanessa)

- Event postponed due to limited preparation time for transportation and supplies.
- Committee plans to begin planning earlier next year.
- Vanessa will continue social media promotion.

**Swedish Marching Band Concert**
(Eric)

- Scheduled for Sunday, July 5, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM at John Carlyle Square.
- Proposed stipend: $1,050 to provide lunch for band members.
    - **Motion approved for stipend funding.**
        - Motion: Paul
        - Second: Phil
- Eric is coordinating with the Embassy on promotional materials.

**NBA Event**
(Phil)

- Scheduled for Saturday, November 7 at Lloyd House.
- Subcommittee members: Phil, Alina, Kate, and David Mitchell.

**Cider Festival**

- Scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at Lloyd House.

**Scottish Christmas Walk**

- Scheduled for December 5.
- Sister City Dinner also planned.

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**7. New Business**

**None.**

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**8. Reminders**

- All communications must go through the Office of Communication
- Notify Eric for excused absences
- Meetings will be held at Lloyd House (City Hall no longer available)
- Recurring meetings scheduled for the 4th Monday of each month

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**9. Next Meeting**

Monday, June 22nd at 7:00 PM (Lloyd House)

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**10. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

**Submitted by:**
Katelyn Bellus, Secretary
May 26, 2026