Alexandria Sister Cities Committee September '26 Meeting – Monday 28 September 2026

- Meeting held at the Lloyd House called to order at approximately ~7:05 pm
- Attendance
    - In-person: Paul Anderson, Eric Compton, David Anderson, Kate McMahon, Dale Medearis, David Mitchell, Lauren Smith, Carter Rice, Pat Scherschel, Victoria James, Alina Launchbaugh, Phil Dawit,
      Vanessa Simpson, and Whitney Umarov (Office of Historic Alexandria)
    - Absent: Katelyn Bellus, Alejando Perez-Reyes and Elisabeth Poppen
    - Two members of the public: Pat Scherschel and Victoria James—both have been recently appointed to the Committee but their terms do not officially start until October 1
    - Last meeting for Carter and Alex whose terms expire at the end of September. Carter said she would continue through with planning for the Swedish Coffee Culture Event
- August '26 minutes: Paul motioned, David Anderson seconded to approve minutes. Unanimously approved.
- Introduction of our newest members: Pat Scherschel and Victoria James
- Treasurer's Report: Whitney
- Sister Cities' Updates – Eric
- Ongoing Business
    - Welcome Reception for Helsingborg students – October 7. Dave M, Lauren, Paul, Victoria, Kate, Dave A and Eric volunteered to attend.
        - Eric mentioned local a Swedish Candy Co., and recommended a $100 purchase for the event. Paul motioned to accept; Alina – seconded. Unanimous vote for Eric to make $100 candy purchase.
    - Dundee Trip - Dave M. presented summary report of trip. Eric – motioned to accept; Vanessa – seconded. Unanimous vote to accept and append to minutes.
    - Annual Report and Annual Attendance Report for 2025-2026 – Eric presented, and motioned to accept and submit to City; Alina – seconded. Unanimous vote to accept and submits report to City.
    - NBA event – Phil mentioned what has transpired thus far with planning, and that the event was likely to be pushed back to February 2027.
    - SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association) Donation Request – Carter and Eric mentioned having prepared two request applications - one for the Welcome Reception for the Helsingborg Student and another one for the Swedish Coffee Culture Event. Unanimous vote to submit the applications.
    - Swedish Coffee Culture Event – October 25. Carter and Vanessa discussed plans.
    - Skanska Donation Request for ACHD student visit to Helsingborg– Dale briefed committee on this proposal and next steps.
- New Business
    - Scottish Christmas Walk - Eric also mentioned likely DATA visitors for Scottish Christmas Walk, and need to plan for their visit, including need to plan a welcome reception and dinner.
    - Five Guys in Dundee and Caen. Committee discussed promoting Alexandria business in sister cities
    - Port City beer being sold in Swedish alcohol stores. Eric mentioned asking our friends in Helsingborg to see if they can find the beer and to photograph for SMs.
    - Ode for General Washington's Birthday - Poem by Robert Burns. Eric mentioned leanring about this in Dundee and reaching out to the George Washington Birthday Parade Committee about a possible event featuring the poem.
    - Mayor's Proposed Friendship City Plan with Osijek, Croatia. Committee discussed. Unanimous vote to recommend that Council postpone consideration until we can fully evaluate the proposal and develop a plan for new sister cities (and friendship city). Dale volunteering to start planning and draft response.
- Next meeting: Monday October 26, 2026, Lloyd House, 7pm.

- Meeting adjourned: ~8:35 pm (Eric motioned; Phil seconded; unanimous vote)

EBC
Chair / Acting Secretary
20 October 2026

ATTACHMENT: Summary notes from the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee (ASCC) visit to Dundee, Scotland in August 2026

Summary notes from the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee (ASCC) visit to Dundee, Scotland in August 2026

August 5 - Our group of ASCC members (Eric Compton and David Mitchell), Rugby officials/team members, and Alexandria city officials including Mayor Alyia Gaskins, arrived in Dundee, Scotland for the "Mayor's Cup", a series of rugby matches between men's and women's teams from Dundee and Alexandria, Virginia. Our group was welcomed to Dundee by Deputy Lord Provost Nadia El-Nakla along with other Dundee dignitaries in the City Council Chambers. We were feted with food and drink, and gifts were presented to dignitaries from Alexandria and Dundee.

August 6 - Dundee officials organized a visit for the Alexandria group to St. Andrews, Scotland and a Whisky distillery tour/tasting. In the evening, the ASCC members and Alexandria government officials had dinner with the Dundee-Alexandria Twinning Association (DATA) in a small restaurant in downtown Dundee.

August 7 - Dundee officials organized a visit for the Alexandria group to the Arbroath Abbey, and the Angus Alchemy Distillery. Later in the day, the first rugby match between Alexandria and Dundee occurred with the Veterans teams (35 years and older). The Alexandria Veterans won the match!

August 8 - The main event of rugby matches between Dundee and Alexandria: Alexandria women won their match while the Dundee men won the other match. Fast, hard-hitting competition. The Mayor's Cup (Men's) is staying in Dundee for another year, but the Lord Provost Salver (Ladies) came back home to reside in Alexandria. In the evening, a Gala was held which included all the rugby team members, rugby officials, city officials from both cities, DATA, and ASCC members. Trophies were presented and included wonderful speeches about our sister city partnership.

The engagements strengthened personal connections and civic partnership, as well as advanced the overall goodwill between the two cities. We look forward to our next face to face meeting with the Dundee people in December at the Scottish Walk in Old Town Alexandria. Our trip also gave us a lot of ideas for hosting the Scots next summer when their rugby teams visit and play against our Alexandria teams.

Pictures are included below.














8
4
3








27 Mayors' Cup