

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Jan '26 Meeting – Monday 12 January 2026

- Meeting held at Llyod House; called to order at approximately ~7:02 pm
- Attendance:
 - In-person: Dale Medearis, Carter Rice, Jennifer Eidemiller, Paul Anderson, Whitney Umarov, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Diana Price, Katelyn Bellus, Phil Dawit, Elisabeth Poppen, Vanessa Simpson
 - Excused Absence: Martha Davis (NOVA CC), David Mitchell, Mikke Norton
 - Absent: None
 - Guest: Pat Schurshel
- November '25 minutes – Approve notes (Motion – Alex, Second – Paul)
- Treasurer's Report – haven't transitioned the accounts yet, otherwise no changes.
- Officer Elections
 - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer - (Motion – Eric, Second – Alex)
 - Secretary – Katelyn Bellus (Motion – Eric, Second – Alex)
 - Social Media – Vanessa Simpson (Motion – Eric, Second – Alex)
- Completed Events
 - Transatlantic Book Clubs: (Diana)
 - Nov 20th – Dundee book club
 - Nov 25th – Helsingborg book club
 - Cider Festival (Elisabeth/Alex)
 - Swedish Fika Coffee (Vanessa/Carter)
 - Scottish Walk
 - Dec 4th – Reception for the VIPs, Caen Committee, ASCC, OHA, etc.
 - Dec 4th – Dinner with Anne Cant after the reception.
 - Dec 5th – Taste of Scotland
 - Dec 6th – Parade - VIPs (Lord and Lady Provost) and the Vice Data Chair attended.
 - Dec 6th – Lunch at O'Connell's for the committee post parade.
 - Dec 6th – OHA dinner.
- Ongoing
 - Apr 25th – OHA Hosting a Beer Tasting
 - Create a subcommittee (Elisabeth)
 - 2026 Swedish Fika Coffee
 - Create another subcommittee (Vanessa/Carter)
 - Aug 8th–10th – Alexandria Rugby is going to Dundee, Scotland (Eric)
 - End of July – Soccer (Football) Match – might be happening
 - United States 250th Anniversary Subcommittee (Phil, David)
 - Jan 17th, Noon – Next Subcommittee meeting
 - Jun 12th–Jun 14th – Sails on the Potomac
 - Lloyd House is on hold for an event on Thursday, June 18th, 6-10 PM
 - Ideas (Voted previously in order):
 - Tie our Sister Cities with the U.S. founding – Spirit of the Revolution
 - Tasting History - Period food tasting – e.g., utilizing space at Gadsby's or Mt. Vernon
 - Period Music or Music that was spawned from the revolution (e.g., Jazz)
 - Famous African Americans and their role in the revolution
 - July 4th weekend – Parade and our involvement (Eric is checking on this)
 - Strategic Plan with Goal and Calendar (Dale)
 - Jan 13th, 6:30 PM – next Strategy meeting to keep ideas/conversation going.
 - Jan 28th, 9 AM – webinar on climate resiliency. Send the link for social media inclusion.
 - Gyumri (Alex)
 - Virtual Penpal program – starting to work on reviewing this again.
 - Whisky Tasting – Save the Date
 - Plan A – May 2nd, Plan B - April 18th
 - Eric will check with Jared to confirm which date works.
 - Need to create a subcommittee for this in February.
 - Nov 7th at Lloyd House (reserved) – NBA (Basketball) – Joint SSC Lectura Event with Caen (Phil)
 - Create another subcommittee here soon.
 - Diana (her services manager) will send information on how to get free Wizards tickets.
 - Start looking into NBA grants.
 - June 13th, 9 PM – World Cup Scotland Watch Party (Alex)

- New Business (Ideas)
 - Midsommer Flower Crown Making Event (Vanessa, Elisabeth)
 - St. Lucia Day
- Reminder: All communications need to go through the Office of Communication. Send these out as soon as known.
- Next meeting: Monday, February 23rd, at the Lloyd House, 7 PM.
 - Reminder: City Hall is no longer available; meetings are now at the Lloyd House.
 - Starting in March, meetings will be on the 4th Monday for the rest of 2026.
- Meeting adjourned: ~8:24 pm

JLE

Secretary

12 January 2026