

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Feb '26 Meeting – Monday 23 February 2026

- **Meeting held at Llyod House; called to order at approximately ~ 7:03 pm**
- **Attendance:**
 - **In-person:** Dale Medearis, Whitney Umarov, David Anderson, Katelyn Bellus, Paul Anderson, Elisabeth Poppen, Eric Compton, Alina Launchbaugh, David Mitchell, Vanessa Simpson, Mikke Norton
 - **Excused Absence:** Martha Davis (NOVA CC), Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Carter Rice, Phil Dawit
 - **Absent:** N/A
 - **Guest:** Pat Scherchel, Lindsay Gsell, Alex Mitchell
- Intro of new members
 - David Anderson, Alina Launchbaugh
- **January 2026 minutes** – Approve notes (Motion – Eric, Second – David A.)
- **Treasurer’s Report** – No changes, per Whitney
- **Sub-Committee Updates**
 - Alexandria’s 250th Fourth of July Celebration Subcommittee – Phil/David M
 - Feb 22, 2026 - Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (Eric)
 - June 18th 6-10pm @ Lyceum, Revolution-inspired Concert (Dale’s BIL)– incorporate Scottish/French/Swedish style music
 - Quote ~ \$2000 Lyceum, ~\$20/ticket
 - Invite Caen Committee, potentially co-host
 - Motion – Eric, Second - Paul, unanimous
 - Planning sessions about a month out
 - Jun 12th–Jun 14th – Sails on the Potomac
 - Caen Chair reached out about SC Trivia Night
 - April 9th @ Volas – Elisabeth
 - Two Lectures/Mt. Vernon
 - Pat – GMU Professor, Eric - NOVA Professor
 - David M. communicating with Mt. Vernon staff on potential collaborations and events related to the 250th
 - Swedish Marching Band - Jul 5 or 6
 - Location TBD
 - Eric/Jim/Whitney discuss potential payment
 - Motion – Eric, Second – Paul, unanimous

- Strategy Subcommittee – Dale
 - Opportunities to access funds, staff, etc. within the committee and other committees - develop a strategy to present to council
 - Dale to send Katelyn documents to create folder on shared drive
- Gyumri update – Alex absent, no update
- Sports – Alex absent, no update
 - June 13th Haiti/Scotland Watch Party – TBD
 - 6 Nations – Vanessa SM content
- **Ongoing Events**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Whisky Tasting – Eric
 - May 2nd @ Lyceum Finalized – all hands
 - Feb 28th @ 12pm Planning Meeting @ Mishas
 - NBA Event – Phil
 - Joint event with Caen
 - Plaque for Earl Lloyd, Member attend game, Wizards Game
 - Beer Festival – Elisabeth
 - Postponed – TBD, Whitney will follow up when rescheduled
 - Swedish Events – Carter/Vanessa
 - Midsummer event @ National Mall – June-ish
 - Elisabeth/Vanessa lead subcommittee
 - Potentially use DASH/ ALX trolleys
 - Confirm date with Embassy
- **Tentative Calendar of Committee Events:**
 - Tartan Day/DC Event – April 6
 - Event in DC, members get discounted tickets
 - Dundee Trip for Rugby Matches – August 6-9, main day Aug 8
 - Mar 8th planning meeting to discuss details – noon @ Mishas
 - Sister Cities Dinner (joint w Caen) – Elisabeth/Katelyn
 - Lloyd House on Sept 26th
 - Cider Festival - Nov 22
- **New Business (Ideas)**
 - Vanessa – communications strategy discussion in March

- **Reminder: All communications need to go through the Office of Communication. Send these out as soon as known.**
- **Next meeting:** Monday, March 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: ~8:28 pm

KEB
Secretary
23 February 2026