

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee March '26 Meeting – Monday 23 March 2026

- **Meeting held at Lloyd House; called to order at approximately ~ 7:05 pm**
- **Attendance:**
 - **In-person:** Dale Medearis, Whitney Umarov, Carter Rice, Katelyn Bellus, Paul Anderson, Eric Compton, David Mitchell, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Phil Dawit, Elisabeth Poppen, Mikke Norton
 - **Excused Absence:** Martha Davis (NOVA CC), Vanessa Simpson, Alina Launchbaugh
 - **Absent:** David Anderson
 - **Guest:** Lauren Smith (New member starting in April), Alex Mitchell
- Intro of members
- **February 2026 minutes** – Approve notes with one spell change - fixed (Motion – Eric, Second – Paul)
- **Treasurer’s Report**
 - Phil - two checks paid out for reimbursement
 - Whitney - current balance \$9,160
- **Sub-Committee Updates**
 - Alexandria’s 250th Fourth of July Celebration Subcommittee – Eric/David M
 - Feb 22, 2026 - Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (Eric)
 - June 18th 6-10pm @ Lyceum, Revolution-inspired Concert – Scottish/French/Swedish inspired music
 - ~100 people
 - Quote ~ \$2000 for musicians,
 - \$20/ticket (Motion on Ticket price - Paul, Second – Elizabeth, unanimous)
 - Dundee Trip – Eric sent information out on Rugby match
 - Strategy Subcommittee – Dale
 - Climate Webinar - April 21st
 - May Webinar – finalizing
 - Social Media Strategy – Vanessa
 - Sub meeting to discuss incorporating social media strategy with Dale’s strategic plan
 - Gyumri update – Alex
 - Contact with Peace Corps has dried up, exploring new path
 - Sports – Alex
 - June 13th Haiti/Scotland Watch Party – TBD

- **Ongoing Events**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Climate Webinar – April 21st
 - Whisky Tasting – Eric
 - May 2nd @ Lyceum @ 6pm
 - Mar 29th @ 2pm Planning Meeting @ Mishas (Prince Street)
 - NBA Event – Phil
 - Phil talking with WNBA
 - Sister Cities Dinner (September) – Elisabeth
 - Food from all 4 Sister Cities
 - Carter to provide Swedish baker contact to Elisabeth
 - Swedish Events – Carter/Vanessa
 - Carter to plan sub meeting to discuss bakery event in Fall
 - Midsummer event @ National Mall – June-ish
 - Marching Band – Eric
 - July 5 or 6 perform in Carlyle Plaza
 - SCC supplies food for event
 - Swedish Ship for 250th – Paul/Elisabeth
 - OHA receptions June 12-14 – Whitney to provide additional information
 - Sister City booth (\$200 rental) - Raffle on Friday night for tickets to OHA reception
- **Tentative Calendar of Committee Events:**
 - Tartan Day/DC Event – April 6
 - Event in DC, members get discounted tickets
 - D-Day Commemoration Event – Carlyle Plaza
 - Sun, May 31st
 - Promotional material in shared drive
 - America 250 Washington Tattoo – July 17/18
 - Beer Festival – still postponed, potentially August
 - Helsingborg students visiting Alexandria in October
 - Potentially host cultural event
 - St. Stephens/Agnes students currently visiting Helsingborg

- Swedish Coffee and Fika Event – Late October/Early November
 - Potentially Nov 7th if no NBA event
- NBA Event - tentative hold on Lloyd House for Nov 7
- Cider Festival - November 21
- Scottish Walk Parade – December 5
- **New Business:**
 - Eric reached out to Arts Commission to get mural, plaque, etc. to commemorate SC relationships
- **Reminder: All communications need to go through the Office of Communication. Send these out as soon as known.**
- **Next meeting:** Monday, April 27th, at the Lloyd House, 7 PM.
- **May Meeting Date** – Move to Tuesday, May 26th (Motion – Eric, Second – Elisabeth, unanimous)
 - Reminder: City Hall is no longer available; meetings are now at the Lloyd House.
 - Meetings will be on the 4th Monday for the rest of 2026.
- Meeting adjourned: ~ 8:30 pm

KEB
Secretary
23 March 2026