

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee April '24 Meeting – Monday 15 April 2024

- Meeting held at City Hall, Sister cities room; called to order at approximately ~7:06 pm
- Attendance
 - In-person: Eric Compton, Paul Anderson, Karen Parsons, Phil Dawit, Jennifer Eidemiller, Dale Medearis, Erin Rauner, Mikke Norton, David Vondle, Martha Davis (NOVA Alexandria), and Whitney Umarov (Office of Historic Alexandria)
 - Absent: Jose Mandujano (excused), James Morrison, and Kathryn Johnson. Diana Price dialed in.
- March '24 minutes and whisky subcommittee minutes: Erin motioned, Paul seconded, unanimously approved.
- Old Business
 - New officer positions became effective April 1.
 - Follow up discussion regarding the successful Craig Weir (4/1) and Whisky Tasting (4/13), including thanks for all the hard work and special efforts and Phil's preliminary treasury report on the income from both events.
 - Discussed Swedish-themed Midsummer Solstice party tentatively planned for the Lloyd House in June. Concerns were expressed about insufficient time for proper planning and execution. Paul motioned to table the event; Erin seconded. Motion passed unanimously, but group expressed interest in pursuing such an event in the future.
 - Eric continues to explore a joint happy hour and other possible interactions with the Caen committee.
 - Soccer – Dale provided an update on Alexandria Soccer Association's girls soccer teams, which will be traveling near Helsingborg this summer. Committee discussed possibility of leveraging this connection to explore potential new avenues of interactions with Helsingborg as well as Dundee.
- New Business
 - Discussion of future Scottish-themed lecture events in Alexandria, beginning Fall 2024, possibly with a Scottish history lecture in October by former NOVA Dean Jim McClellan. Paul and Martha will follow-up. This would be part of Alexandria's 275th anniversary event series.
 - Martha led discussion of exchange opportunities between NOVA and comparable institution in Dundee. New dean on board. Goal: March 2025, 2 faculty and 2 or 3 students. Committee interested in supporting, possibly via stipends.
 - Diana reported that she held an initial meeting with a Helsingborg librarian and plans to meet again on May 7. The Alexandria library wants to set up a similar exchange like the short story events it holds with the Dundee library.
 - David alerted group to upcoming Scotland v. US rugby game in Washington on July 12 at 6:30 pm. Interest expressed among some committee members to attend as a group. David will gather more information.
 - Paul talked about the tapestries exhibit at the Victoria and Albert museum and suggested committee explore possibility of working to bring this touring exhibit to Alexandria.
 - Paul suggested exploring possibility of a future whisky and/or gin tasting event at the Ivy Hill cemetery's burial vault.
- Next meeting: Monday May 20 at City Hall
- Meeting adjourned: ~8:35 pm

KTP
Secretary
9 May 2024