

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee January '25 Meeting – Monday 13 January 2025

- Meeting held at Lloyd House; called to order at approximately ~7:01 pm
- Attendance
 - In-person: Carter Rice, Dale Medearis, Paul Anderson, Jennifer Eidemiller, Eric Compton, Whitney Omarov (Office of Historic Alexandria), Jose Mandujano, Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Martha Davis (NOVA CC), Diana Price, Elisabeth Poppen, Phil Dawit
 - Excused Absence: James Morrison
 - Absent: Erin Rauner, Mikke Norton
- Introductions made for Alejandro (Alex) Perez-Reyes, Vanessa Simpson
- September '24 minutes: Hold until the next meeting.
- October '24 minutes: Paul (motioned), Eric (seconded)
- November '24 minutes: Jenn to fix Mikke's spelling and Lloyd House; Paul (motioned), Eric (seconded)
- Treasurer's Report (Phil)
 - Whitney provided the latest numbers during the meeting.
 - Please send items by email, not electronically, to Phil moving forward for processing.
- Upcoming Events
 - Jan. 14th - TransAtlantic Book Club (Helsingborg) – Short story "Sugar Babies" by Kali-Fajardo-Anstine from her collection *Sabrina & Corina*. – Diana
 - April 26th – Whisky Tasting (Dundee) – Phil and Paul
 - March 29th – GW University (Tattoo - Tartan Day)
 - TBD - Mid-summer Celebration (Helsingborg) – Elisabeth
- Old Business
 - Christmas Scottish Walk – attended by Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee – Bill and Yvonne Campbell, DATA Chair and his wife – Gary and Roz Langlands and DATA Vice Chair - Anne Cant.
 - St. Agnus students will be traveling to Dundee this Spring.
 - Alexandria Soccer will send an Alexandrian team to Dundee to play in a tournament.
 - Lord and Lady Provost met with:
 - The Sailing Club of Washington and Sailing Club of Dundee – may be a future regatta between Dundee and the Sailing Club.
 - The Sheriff's office.
 - Dr. Jimmy McClellan and NOVA.
 - Alexandria Choral Society – going to Dundee this summer and working on singing with a local group.
 - Dundee Courier reached out to the Alexandria Gazette – doing a piece on the Sister Cities.
 - Swedish Cuisine – Jenn noted that our initial ideas for cooking a Swedish recipe fell through. Looking into other options – Jenn and Vanessa
 - Dundee Tapestry – Victoria Albert Museum (current exhibit) – hand-embroidered patterns commemorating the history of Dundee, Scotland. They want to bring it to Alexandria, New York, and the UK Embassy. – Martha (can NoVA do this?)
 - Social Media (Jenn) –
 - Send links and newsletter signups to the new committee member.
 - Add Vanessa to Facebook and Instagram as an Admin.
- New Business
 - Whisky Tasting planning meetings – Phil and Paul
 - 2025 Committee Events – additional lectures – one through Helsingborg (Coffee House – Misha's) and Dundee (Scottish Tea) – Vanessa and Carter
 - Sporting Events/Watch Parties – TBD
 - Visits to Sister Cities – Dundee Hooley - https://www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/news/article?article_ref=4801 Maybe have us go on our own accord this year.
 - Cider Festival – participated in 2024; expect to participate in 2025. Helsingborg cider was served this year. Maybe we can serve up both Helsingborg and Scotland cider. – Elisabeth
 - Helsingborg, Sweden – invited to their graduation.

- o Helsingborg, Sweden – Midsummer or St. Lucia – Elisabeth
- o Joint presentation of all three sister cities (Caen, Helsingborg, Dundee) on Viking history. – Carter
- o Committee Reports updates – Dale
 - Medearis and Compton co-developed and circulated to the Committee a template for fellow Sister City Committee members to populate with information about existing or future programs underway between Alexandria and Helsingborg/Sweden and Dundee/Scotland (e.g. activities, budgets etc.). The purpose is to help the Committee inventory and then plan existing and/or future events, especially professional and commercial - and including possible exchanges or study tours. Feedback was requested for the following meeting in February. A copy of the template is attached.
- o Reach out to DATA and the Provost about meeting with police.
 - The Chair invited Medearis to try to explore potential programming with juvenile detention center and Dundee in light of recent visit and interest by Dundee officials.
- o Bylaws creation – Eric, Whitney
- o New Sister Cities – reach out to Gretchen Bulova (OHA) – Phil
- Next meeting: Monday, February 10th, at Lloyd House, 7 PM. Motion: Eric (motioned), Alex (seconded)
- Meeting adjourned: ~8:39 pm

JLE

Secretary

13 January 2025