



Sister Cities Commission Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

4:30pm – 6:00pm

Electronic/Virtual meeting -

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HrkqD1GhTkSaNIXTgTcdZQ

Call to Order

I. **Approval of Minutes** – May 5, 2026

II. **Chair's Report** – Edward Herring

III. **Finance Report** – Salvatore Moschella

- Updated Spending Plan – FY26-27

IV. **City Reports**

- Huehuetenango, Guatemala – Kristen Petros de Guex
- Besancon, France – Edward Herring
- Poggio a Caiano, Italy – Stella Mattioli
- Winneba, Ghana – Kimberly Hayes

V. **Committee Reports**

- Grants – Kimberly Hayes
- Education – Alicen Brown
- Programs / Social Media & Community Outreach – Edward Herring
- New Committee –
 - Art-in-place
 - Bus Wrap
 - Video
 - Community gatherings

VI. **Adjournment**

The next Sister Cities Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the CitySpace Main Conference Room. The August CSCC meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call (434) 987-1267 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide 48 hours' notice so that proper arrangements may be made.

Sister Cities Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
4:30pm – 6:00pm
CitySpace, Main Conference Room
100 Fifth Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

- **Present:** Edward Herring, S. Lisa Herndon, Bonita Patton, Elizabeth Smiley, Stella Mattioli, Salvatore Moschella, Kristen Petros de Guex
- **Virtual Attendance:** Kimberly Hayes
- **Absent:** Cherry Stewart (CHS on Spring Break), Alicen Brown, John Mason,
- **Non-Voting Members Present:** Maxicelia Robinson, Deputy Clerk of Council

Call to Order: 4:39 P.M. Chair Edward Herring - quorum is established

I. Approval of Minutes

- Past meeting minutes will be reviewed in May 2026, (for November, January and February awaiting Elizabeth's edits). March and April will also be reviewed at that time.

II. Chair's Report – Edward Herring

- Updates on - Besancon, France
 - Past Mayor of Besancon, Jean-Louis Fousseret has visited Charlottesville in the past, and helped with activities
 - Newly elected Mayor Ludovic Fagaut, will serve for five years
 - a. Socialist to conservative government not sure how this will impact their involvement because of budget
 - Events – April 12th Annual Monticello wreath laying ceremony, the CSCC has been invited to participate for the 3rd year – \$125.00 cost to purchase a wreath, includes a 1:30 P.M. luncheon – Mayor Wade will also be in attendance
 - a. The ceremony is to lay a wreath at the tomb of Thomas Jefferson to celebrate his birthday
 - b. July 4th Commission will be at Monticello as a community partner
 - Chair Edward Herring – made a motion to purchase the \$125.00 to participate in the wreath laying celebration
 - a. S. Lisa Herndon – Asked if there had ever been any controversy around being at the ceremony
 - b. Chair Edward Herring - provided his perspective and his history of working with Monticello and students – stated that he would feel reluctant to cancel at this point
 - c. Sal Moschella – shared that he feels that the Monticello Foundation does a lot of good
 - d. S. Lisa Herndon – shared her perspective and opposition to participating in the ceremony and would abstain from voting
 - e. Kristen Petros de Guex - shared her perspective and opposition to participating in the celebration and would also abstain from voting
 - f. Max (Maxicelia Robinson) - noted that the motion had not been seconded

- g. Chair Edward – requested a 2nd to the motion – it was not seconded and was not able to move forward

III. Finance Report – Salvatore Moschella

- Updated FY26-27 Spending Plan
 - a. Sal reviewed the 2 –Year Budget (as of 4/7/2026) provided handouts – highlighting the best estimates based on funds already spent, and those earmarked
 - b. \$24,022.68 balance based on projected expenditures
 - c. Finance Budget Committee will re-evaluate
 - d. Reference the **Charlottesville Sisters Cities Commission 2 – Year BUDGET (as of 4/7/2026)** handouts as presented during the meeting

IV. City Reports

- a. Huehuetenango, Guatemala – Kristen Petros de Guez
 - Provided the **Budget Request: Huehuetenango Committee – Major Cano Delegation Visit, July 2-5, 2026**, handout
 - Discussed the 19-visitors – not all are a part of the official delegation from Huehuetenango, Guatemala – Mayor Wade has agreed to help tour with the visiting delegation
 - Budget – will cover MOU signing ceremony, art reception (Jefferson School African American Heritage Center/JSAAHC), visit the Monacan Ancestral Museum, and July 4th picnic and farewell dinner with live music by the Lua Project – additional interactive suggestions were discussed, and the farewell dinner will be co-hosted with the GuateMaya Alliance - departing on July 6th
 - May 10, 2026 – final details should be complete for visit
 - Kristen needs to start confirming event commitments, transportation is only budgeted for Monacan Museum trip to Amherst – all travel and housing is the delegation responsibility – willing to assist – encourage them to stay in the city
 - Chair Edward – suggest that we plan a quick trip – such as a visit to PVCC
 - Elizabeth Smiley – suggested having host families for housing the delegation (idea was well received)
 - Motion to approve \$6,088 budget for the Mayor Cano Delegation Visit July 2-5, 2026
 - S. Lisa Herndon – suggested amending the motion to fund up to \$6,088
 - Bonita Patton – Seconded the motion and the amendment was approved
- b. Besancon, France – Elizabeth Smiley
 - Elizabeth – shared that Florent Werguet (International Relations Director for Besancon) had visited for 2 weeks to celebrate French learners participating in the Virginia Festival of the Book
 - Discussed a delegation to Besancon in September if approved by the new government (Mayor Ludovic Fagaut & Florent Werguet will have conversations about how the Sister Cities will move forward)
 - Elizabeth - suggest waiting until 2027 to send our delegation to Besancon – the new mayor wants more economic benefits – strengthening our mutual business

connections, she will get more information on the number of delegation members to travel

- Elizabeth - noted that she will not be coordinating travel arrangements unlike to coordination of the Huehuetenango, Guatemala trip
- Each individual traveler will be responsible for making their own trip itinerary
- Update - virtual Citadel tour – members were invited to do the Citadel of Besancon virtual tour as noted in previous meeting minutes (the city of Besancon owns and manages the Citadel) - the tour was offered in French & English

c. Poggio a Caiano, Italy – Stella Mattioli

- Stella plans to visit Italy at the end of May 2026
- The goal is to have a group visit to Italy in July 2027

d. Winneba, Ghana – Kimberly Hayes

- Kimberly – shared her recent Winneba visit which she found to be very hospitable and included a robust itinerary (meeting multiple officials: Deputy Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Schools, etc.)
- Viewed the donated fire engine & ambulance, as well as donating items to the school, and took lots of videos
- Nana Akyeampong-Ghartey – was very helpful reinforcing & clarifying that Kimberly is the city representative which is sometimes confused with the Winneba Foundation representative
- Chair Edward – asked if there are any grant applications? Also noted that Cville Weekly – offers a reduced City advertising rate of \$125 – suggested running an ad sharing the grant application April 30th deadline
- Kimberly – will work with Cher (Cherry Stewart) concerning the grants
- Motion: made by Kimberly to provide funds of \$200 to advertise in Cville Weekly, and seconded by Elizabeth Smiley

V. Committee Reports

a. Grants – Kimberly Hayes (update included in her City Report)

b. Education & Outreach – Alicen Brown

- Alicen Brown & Cher to provide an update on T-shirts & pin purchase requisition recommendations (both were absent)

c. Programs / Social Media & Community Outreach - Cherry Stewart

- (Cher on vacation)

Chair Edward - announced that we're **out of time will continue at the next meeting**

d. New Art & Content Committee – continue update at the next meeting

- Art-in-place
- Bus Wrap
- Video
- Community Gatherings

VI. Adjournment – Chair Edward 6:05 P.M. next meeting May 5, 2026, at 4:30 P.M. in CitySpace (S. Lisa Herndon – secretary will be absent on Winneba, Ghana trip)