

D-Day Program Informal Meeting
May 22, 2022
2pm, La Madeleine Restaurant

Attendees:

- Kerem Bilge
- Ashlee Harper
- Alex Jevgrafovs
- Jennie Reading

The meeting was called to order at 2:01pm by Kerem Bilge.

- I. Chair/table/tent update:
 - Renting from A&A, 75 chairs and 10 tables, for \$288
 - Stephen Hartka is the POC and will do delivery and pick-up via U-Haul (cost TBD)
 - So far six tables are spoken for: one each for VFW, American Legion, children's activities, history, and welcoming – and perhaps for one business. That leaves four.
 - Jim Holloway will bring the canopy tents to Market Square.

- II. Parking Update:
 - We have reservations on Royal Street for program participants who need to unload or load items.
 - Program participants who don't need to unload/load items will park under Market Square, at a cost of \$5, which will be reimbursed.

- III. Banner update:
 - The banners need to be updated from last year with this year's date and times. Jennie Reading is having this done by Affordable Signs for \$150 and they will be ready by Wednesday May 25.
 - There are four stand-up easels with program information. Jennie will put these up around Market Square on the morning of the event (Saturday June 4). There are two lawn signs. Jennie will post those the Sunday before the event (Sunday May 29)
 - The banner that goes across the top of the Wiley Mitchell Pavilion (the stage in Market Square), the U.S. and French flags on the lampposts, and the large U.S. flag will all go up on the Wednesday before the program (Wednesday June 1) and will be put up by the city.

- IV. Children's activities
 - There will be three children's activities. Jennie Reading is the POC:
 - Handouts for coloring
 - A pool with four toy landing craft. Kids will try to guide the landing craft across the pool using small water hoses. The pool needs to be placed near the water source in Market Square.
 - A model of the Pointe du Hoc cliffs. Kids will try to flick mini grapplers across the top of the cliffs.

V. French Market/Sponsors

- It has proven difficult to get participants in the French Market. One vendor might be interested but cannot pay the \$100 fee. That vendor needs a power outlet and WiFi to process transactions.
- We will see if vendors can participate if the \$100 fee is waived.
- Ashlee Harper and Jennie Reading will follow up with potential sponsors and potential vendors for the French market.

VI. Veterans Groups

- Alex Jevgrafovs confirmed that Alexandria VFW Post 609 and Alexandria Old Town American Legion Post 24 will each have a table at the event and publicize it as well.
- Ashlee Harper is reaching out to The Hermitage of Northern Virginia, an Alexandria retirement home with several veterans in residence and Goodwin House, another Alexandria retirement home with a veteran population. Goodwin House hosted the very first Alexandria-Caen D-Day event in 2011

VII. Publicity

- Alex reached out to *Alexandria Living*. They have printed the flyers and information for both D-Day events and will cover both events.
- Laura Withers had reached out to the *Zebra*.
- Jennie Reading is e-mailing the list of past lecture attendees. She also has flyers ready for members to post and will e-mail committee membership about that.

VIII. Formal Program/Reenactors

- The mayor, vice mayor, and two city councilmembers have confirmed attendance so far, one or two more city councilmembers may attend.
- Representatives of the 29th Infantry Division (a unit that participated in D-Day) at Fort Belvoir will attend.
- Three individual reenactors are expected to attend, as well as reenactors from La France Libre and from the 29th Infantry, 116th Regiment Living History Group, including one jeep.
- One reenactor from the Richmond area who has been a major part of the program since 2014 has informed us he can't attend this time because gas is too expensive, even with his customary \$100 subsidy from the committee. Kerem Bilge will see if he would be able to come if his subsidy was raised to \$200.
- Exhibition swing dancers have been contacted and invited.
- Kerem Bilge is the POC for the formal program/reenactors.

IX. May 24 City Council Meeting:

- On Tuesday May 24, the city council will vote on the annual D-Day commemorative resolution. All committee members who can attend are requested to be present at City Hall by 6:45pm on that date.

X. Public Comment:

- Public comment was not received at this meeting.

XI. Open Floor:

- No items were raised during the open floor period.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm by Kerem Bilge.

DO-OUTS:

- Stephen Hartka will deliver and return rented chairs and tables from A&A via U-Haul.
- Jim Holloway will deliver and return the canopy tents
- We will ask the city to put up the (updated) banner on the Wiley Mitchell Pavilion, the large U.S. flag on City Hall, and the smaller U.S. and French flags on the Market Square lampposts on Wednesday June 1.
- We will ask Jim Holloway to identify the water source in Market Square so the kid's table can be placed nearby.
- We will ask the city about WiFi in Market Square for the identified vendor.
- All committee members who can make it are encouraged to attend the City Council meeting where the D-Day resolution will be voted upon: 6:45pm on Tuesday May 24.

Drafted: Kerem Bilge

Cleared: Alex Jevgrafov (ok)
Jennie Reading (ok)
Ashlee Harper (ok)