

**Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Monday, April 10, 2023

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approve Minutes from March

Angelique had distributed a draft of the March 13, 2023, meeting minutes to committee members to review prior to the April 10, 2023 meeting. At the meeting, the committee voted to approve the minutes as distributed.

III. Ongoing Business

A. Recap of Dr. Paxton Lecture – France and the Gauls: From Caesar to Astérix 3/30/23

Angelique thanked committee members for volunteering at the lecture. She said that the turnout was great, with our selling 103 tickets, which was the capacity for the venue. Also, she pointed out that Dr. Paxton presents all her lectures for the committee without our paying her an honorarium; the only expenses this year for her lecture were just some wine and cups. Treasurer Stephen Hartka reported that the committee made \$1,200 on Dr. Paxton's lecture and has netted \$4,800 so far this year from all of our events. ACSCC member Elodie Guillon said that Dr. Paxton's lecture was also entertaining because of her funny sense of humor. Jim Holloway, City of Alexandria liaison from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) to ACSCC, said he is preparing a video of Dr. Paxton's lecture to post on the Historic Alexandria YouTube channel. He said because there are 175 slides, which he has to add individually, and animation, it is taking him longer to prepare than anticipated.

B. An Evening of French Classical Music – 4/14/23

ACSCC member Michael Skardon distributed an update of the planning for this event and discussed the key points:

- Contracts with St. Paul's were signed and a site survey conducted;
- He met with Adriano Spampinato, who he described as "motivated, enthusiastic and prepared." Adriano will play for 45-50 minutes and will encore on the organ.
- The piano was being tuned on April 11, and instead of costing \$250, it will only cost \$135.
- The weather forecast looks good for the night of April 14 so we will be able to hold the reception outside. He described that attendees will mingle over wine and light hors d'oeuvres. He applauded ACSCC member Kyly Larriviere for volunteering to make cheese biscuits and said that food donations would be welcomed from other committee members.
- Michael said that ticket sales were a matter of concern because we have not sold as many tickets as he had hoped by the week of the event. He said that the church can accommodate 300 people, but we need to sell approximately 125 tickets to break-even. Angelique reported that as of the meeting, 51 tickets had been sold.
- Michael said the church is ready for the event and had been advertising in their weekly newsletter. There was a discussion about other marketing avenues. Jim said OHA

would send out an email blast. ACSCC member Jennie Reading suggested advertising to other churches. Kyly said to include synagogues as well. Michael said that everyone should double down in advertising the concert on their social media sites.

- Stephen said he would drop off the wine, and there was discussion about having American and French flags flown.
- Michael indicated that we would need a minimum of eight volunteers at the event. Members volunteered for specific roles.
- ACSCC member Laura Withers said she would bring her camera and take pictures at the concert.
- At 7 pm Angelique will introduce the program and welcome attendees, followed by Michael, who will introduce the performer.

C. D-Day Commemoration and Lecture – 6/4/23 and 6/1/23

ACSCC member Kerem Bilge provided an update on preparations for the D-Day commemoration and lecture.

- Arrangements have been finalized with Dr. Kim Bernard Holien to, once again, present the D-Day lecture. Kerem will connect Jim and Dr. Holien so they can coordinate on the logistics of the presentation.
- Kerem said that ACSCC member Leslie Tourigny had prepared the D-Day Proclamation and sent it to Gretchen Bulova, OHA Director, to staff through City Council. We are waiting to hear the date City Council will take up the proclamation.
- Kerem and others have reached out to reenactors and other performers, some of whom have been confirmed. These include: the Town Crier; the Fife and Drum Corps and the Color Guard; Deb Fuller and likely others from La France Libre; Caden Ritchie (12th grader, plays 121st Observation Battalion); Mike Resser of the 29th Infantry, 116th Regiment reenactors; Ted Shealy, with his daughter as a French Resistance fighter; and Gottaswing. Kerem will finalize with the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band to provide ambient music at Market Square after the formal program.
- Kerem commended ACSCC member Jennie Reading for her outreach success in securing \$2,500 in sponsorships for the commemoration- Alexandria Toyota-\$500; Wendy and Doug John-\$500; Yates-\$500; Ting-\$500 plus a bonus—volunteering on June 4; and One Life Fitness-\$500 plus they will also volunteer on June 4. the Kona ice truck will be on hand and contribute 20% of their sales during the commemoration to the committee.
- Angelique will prepare the flyers for the commemoration and the lecture.
- Stephen will arrange with the table/chair vendor to have delivery on Friday, June 2, 2023, for storage in the big blue truck. He'll also bring over the tents to Market Square.
- City leadership will be at the commemoration. The Mayor will introduce the program and stay until after the readings.
- Tables are confirmed for: History, VFW, American Legion Hall (ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafov is the poc); and Kids (Jennie). Angelique will contact the Dundee Sister City Committee, and Jim will check on other OHA organizations that might want to have tables at the event. Jennie will reach out to Ellen at Hooray for Books. ACSCC member Dan Morrison has a contact at French Baguette.
- Leslie and Kyly reported that they both had contacted the Military Women's Memorial to see if they wanted a table at the event, and were told that they did not have the

- “bandwidth” to participate.¹
- Jim will also procure the sound and weapons permit and arrange for the flags for the stage.
 - Jennie will check on the D-Day displays, signage, and other materials at Lloyd House, and will reach out to Bob Fischman’s widow to be a special guest at either or both D-Day events.
 - ACSCC member Laura Withers will be the photographer, as well as do media outreach. She suggested we try to highlight something we are doing that is new and different this year to capture media attention, e.g., thank our sponsors or pitch an interview with the Mayor about the event.
 - Goodwin House will bring a van of people to the commemoration and the lecture.

Alex reminded committee members that the D-Day commemoration is a good opportunity for members to wear their committee shirts. He told new members to the committee that he would send them information on how they can order committee swag.

D. Mailchimp and Website Update

Elodie said she found out that the Committee cannot get a government or nonprofit discount from Mailchimp.

ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez explained that at the Dr. Paxton lecture he queried attendees to determine how they found out about the event. His findings showed that the number one source was from emails and flyers from OHA, followed by recommendations from committee members, and then from Facebook.

IV. New Business

A. Open Floor

There was no new business.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

2023 Calendar

January –

February – Cocktails & Confections 2.9.23

March – France and the Gauls: From Caesar to Astérix Lecture 3.30.23

April – An Evening of French Classical Music 4.14.23

May –

June – D-Day Lecture 6.1.23, D-Day Commemoration 6.4.23

July –

August –

September –

October –

¹ Subsequent to the ACSCC April 10, 2023, meeting, the Military Women’s Memorial notified Leslie that they will now be able to table at the commemoration.

November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11.16.23
December –

ACSCC Member Attendees:

Kerem Bilge
Elodie Guillon
Stephen Hartka
Alex Jevgrafovs
Kyly Larriviere
Antoine Dula Lopez
Angelique Moss
Walter Nicklin
Jennifer Reading
Michael Skardon
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Laura Withers

City of Alexandria Government Attendee:

Jim Holloway

Public:

No attendees

Leslie Tourigny
ACSCC Secretary