

## **Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes for Approval**

Monday, March 11, 2024

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

#### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. when there was a quorum.

#### **II. Approve Minutes from February**

Angelique had emailed a draft of the minutes from the February 12, 2024, committee meeting to committee members for review prior to the March 11, 2024 meeting. However, at the March meeting, committee members deferred voting to approve these minutes until the April meeting in order to give members more time to review them.

#### **III. Welcome to Candace Harman**

Angelique welcomed Candace Harman, who was recently appointed to ACSCC by the Alexandria City Council. Candace introduced herself to the committee. She grew up in Idaho and moved to the city from Richmond. Her background includes working at Master Card and volunteering for the National Park Service at several memorials in Washington, DC, including the WWII Memorial and the Dwight David Eisenhower Memorial. She has two adult sons and four grandchildren. Committee members introduced themselves to Candace.

#### **IV. Ongoing Business**

##### **A. Middle School Exchange**

There was no additional information to report since the February 12, 2024, meeting when ACSCC member Jennie Reading briefed committee members on the preliminary details of the program. The exchange will be happening during the 2024-2025 school year under the auspices of George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, in conjunction with St. Paul's College in Caen.

##### **B. Intern Exchange**

Angelique reported that because Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), had not heard back from Caen officials to see if we could restart the intern exchange program between the cities this summer, she reached out to the City of Nashville, Tennessee. This was because Nashville, who is also a Sister City with Caen, has participated in intern exchange programs with Caen in the past. They said they were not having an intern exchange program with Caen this summer. Angelique, along with ACSCC member Leslie Tourigny, who was chairing the Intern Program subcommittee, agreed that it is too late to go ahead with this program for this summer.

##### **C. D-Day Subcommittee**

- **D-Day Movie or Lecture 5.30.24**

ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafovs contacted PBS asking permission for the committee to show their D-Day movie. They granted permission, with the stipulation that we could not sell tickets. There was a discussion about this limitation because our past lecture programs have always charged a small ticket fee so that we could collect some money towards our

student exchanges. There was some discussion about whether instead of showing the movie at The Lyceum the committee could show it at City Hall on June 2, as part of the commemoration events. This idea was not met with enthusiasm.

- **D-Day Commemoration 6.2.24**

Jennie reported that we were on schedule with previous years in the planning process for the D-Day events. She said specifically that:

- ACSCC member Sydney Johnson has taken on finding some sponsors. She said that TING was one of last year's sponsors and not only did they contribute financially, but they also provided some of their workers to setup/takedown chairs. We don't know yet about their sponsorship this year.
- ACSCC member Stephen Hartka handled last year's reservation for our rental of tables and chairs and will do the same this year.
- The sound system has always been one of the largest expenditures.
- Former ACSCC member Scott Campbell is still handling arrangements for the U.S. Army Old Guard to participate in the program as in previous years. We have not received a response yet.
- For some of the exhibitor tables, we will need to establish shifts for our committee members to staff-e.g., our committee table, the children's table. The D-Day history table Alex has developed and staffs.
- We need to purchase a new patch to update the banner that goes above the pavilion.

- **D-Day Lecture 6.6.24**

The flyer for this will be coming out in several weeks.

## **D. Lafayette Bicentennial**

Gretchen wants to invite the French Ambassador to Alexandria's events.

- **Lafayette Walking Tours 10/5-6**

Stephen will be chairing the planning for the walking tours, which will be free.

- **Lafayette Reception & Book Lecture and Signing 10/16**

There was nothing new reported about this at the meeting.

- **Lafayette Dinner 10/17**

This Alexandria event on this date will be in competition with the event at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

## **E. Petanque (Boules/Bocce) Tournament and**

## **F. Francophone Music Event**

At the last meeting the committee considered combining these two events. There was no update, however, at this meeting because ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez, who is chairing this initiative, was not at the meeting.

## **G. Liberation of Paris Event**

At the February 12, 2024, ACSCC meeting, Peter Pennington, President of the British Officers Club of Washington, DC, spoke to committee members about ACSCC co-sponsoring with their organization a garden party at Lloyd House, on either September 7 or 14, 2024, to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Paris. The consensus of committee members was that we would be amenable to a co-sponsorship so long as our role was limited because of our already-scheduled events for the fall, i.e., the Lafayette Bicentennial events and

Beaujolais Nouveau. Members felt that we could certainly help with advertising the event and by volunteering on the day of the event to help with the execution. ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafovs said he would talk to Mr. Pennington and convey this, pointing out the clear boundaries on our help. Candace suggested that we ask if the British Officers Club would like to have an exhibitor table at the D-Day commemoration.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. FOIA Meeting Recap**

Jim Holloway, OHA liaison to ACSCC, stated that on February 21, 2024, he and Leslie attended Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training presented by the City Clerk's office because as a public body ACSCC is covered by FOIA. He then briefed the committee on important highlights from the meeting. Foremost among the points that he raised was that ANY gathering of three or more members is a meeting if any committee business is discussed. This includes parties, lunches, etc. Jim then discussed meeting attendance and absences; emailing; records retention and release; Roberts Rules, including meeting minutes; social media policies; his role as liaison to the committee; and other related topics.

### **B. Sister Cities International France Roundtable Recap**

Jennie and Leslie attended this March 8, 2024, Zoom meeting, presented by Sister Cities International in conjunction with the United States Embassy in Paris, and Jennie reported on our committee's activities. She said that we learned at the meeting that Virginia is the state with the largest number of French sister cities.

### **C. Spring Jazz Fête**

ACSCC members Elodie Guillon and Kyly Larrivière presented to committee members their proposal for an event to “celebrate spring and the rich cultural exchange between France and America through the universal language of jazz!” The highlights of their plan are:

- May 4, 2024 (May 5 rain date)
- The event will be kid-friendly
- Venue: Lloyd House outdoor garden (where a jazz band will play) and indoors for a presentation by filmmaker Paul Glenshaw about his “Jazz in Paris” documentary project and music by trio Verroneau
- French crêpes paired with fine wines and ciders from a “Crêpes and Bubbles” Bar will be served
- Glenshaw, also a sketch artist, will sketch the band. There will be an auction of the sketch and wine.
- The budget is estimated to be \$3000.
- The suggested ticket price is \$45, and there is a minimum attendance goal of 100 persons.

Sydney introduced a motion, which was seconded by Stephen, asking that the committee approve going ahead with this event, which they did by a unanimous vote to approve this event.

### **D. Open Floor**

- Angelique reported that she emailed Pascal Pimont with the Sister City Committee in Caen to invite their committee members to our D-Day commemoration events and to the Lafayette Bicentennial events.

- Alex reminded members that he still had some more ACSCC aprons left at \$20 each if anyone wanted one.
- Jennie said that the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra finalized their 2024 schedule and did not include a performance of Emmanuel Dubois’ “Requiem for the Fallen,” a production for which Mr. DuBois and his wife requested ACSCC support.

**VI. Public Comment**

Although there was a member of the public in attendance at the meeting, she did not ask to make any comments.

**VII. Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

**ACSCC Member Attendees:**

Elodie Guillon  
 Candace Harman  
 Stephen Hartka  
 Alex Jevgrafov  
 Sydney Johnson  
 Donna Kenley  
 Kyly Larriviere  
 Angelique Moss  
 Jennifer Reading  
 Elizabeth Reister  
 Leslie Tourigny  
 Karen Fassi Wilbur

**City of Alexandria Government Liaison:**

Jim Holloway

**Public Attendee:**

Ellen Hamilton

**2024 Calendar**

**January** – Alumni Party 1/6

**February** –

**March** –

**April** –

**May** – Spring Jazz Fête 5/4

**June** – D-Day Movie 5/30; D-Day Commemoration 6/2; D-Day Lecture 6/6

**July** –

**August** –

**September** –

**October** – Lafayette Bicentennial Walking Tours 10/5-6; Reception & Book Lecture 10/16; Dinner 10/17

**November** – Beaujolais Nouveau 11/21; Cider Festival 11/23

**December** – Scottish Walk Parade 12/7