

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes for Approval

Monday, April 8, 2024

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. when there was a quorum.

II. Welcome New Members– Michael Bianco and Timotheos Tan

Angelique welcomed the two new members of the committee. Each then introduced themselves to the other committee members and vice-versa.

- Michael Bianco, originally from Chicago, moved to Alexandria in 2006. He served in the Army, is now an attorney for the United States Department of the Interior and is President of the Alexandria Choral Society Board of Directors.
- Timotheos Tan said that before the pandemic he lived in Cairo, but no one spoke Mandarin Chinese there, so he went to France. After attending Alexandria's D-Day event, he was so enamored by the production, he decided to join ACSCC.

Angelique announced that ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez resigned from the committee, effective immediately.

III. Approve Minutes from February & March

Angelique had emailed drafts of the February 12 and March 11 meeting minutes to committee members for review prior to the April meeting. At the March 11 meeting, committee members deferred voting to approve the February minutes until the April meeting to give members more time to review them. ACSCC member Stephen Hartka introduced a motion to approve the February minutes, which were approved unanimously as distributed. Stephen introduced a second motion to approve the March minutes, which were also approved unanimously as distributed.

IV. Ongoing Business

A. Jazz Spring Fête 5.4.24

ACSCC member Kyly Larriviere gave an extensive briefing on this event that she and ACSCC member Elodie Guillon have planned. She highlighted the following:

- The event is May 4, 4 p.m--7 p.m., with a May 5 rain date, at Lloyd House (in the garden and inside).
- The schedule is as follows:
 - 4:15 p.m--jazz band TBD
 - 5:00 p.m--lecture by Paul Glenshaw, co-director of the documentary *Jazz in Paris*
 - 5:30-6:15 p.m--jazz band TBD
 - 6:30 p.m--auction
- Ticket prices are \$55 for adults and \$22 for children, which includes two drink tickets, one sweet crepe, and one savory crepe.

- They budgeted for 100 people but are hoping for 150 because the garden can hold many more people. At the time of the committee meeting, 26 tickets had been sold.
- There will be two shifts established so that ACSCC members can serve the crepes and do other assignments.
- Chef Hugh Cossard from Food Expression, who has done other programs for the committee, will once again prepare the food. The cheese in the crepes will be from Normandy, along with the sparkling wine/cider and apple juice for the children.
- If someone wants more than the two drinks included in the ticket price, an iPad will be set up so that they can pay for extra drinks.
- We'll be using some of the wine we already have.

B. Middle School Exchange

Angelique reported that the application process was finished, and 26 Alexandria students were selected to participate in the exchange.

C. D-Day Subcommittee

The Event and Program Planning Worksheet was distributed, and ACSCC member Jennie Reading participated by telephone.

- **D-Day Commemoration 6.2.24**

Jennie said that we were two months out from the June 2, 2024, D-Day Commemoration, and we were on schedule. She listed some tasks for which we need to assign volunteers.

- 10:30 a.m. table and chairs set up (TBA if this will start at Lloyd House or directly at Market Square)
- Need ice, 300 mini-bottles of water, and six coolers.
- Two photographers (ACSCC member Donna Kenley is one, and we still need one other. We have a list of pictures to be taken.
- ACSCC Info Tent (needs two volunteers, can rotate around)
- ACSCC Kids Activities Tent (needs 2 volunteers, can rotate around)
- 4:00 p.m. tables and chairs need to be taken down
- Additional needs still TBD
- At the next committee meeting on May 13, 2024, we will make certain all the tasks are covered.

Angelique said that the budget is almost final, but she is still figuring out the music. Also, Jennie said that ACSCC member Sydney Johnson is handling sponsorships and has reached out to last year's sponsors and is making contacts we haven't had before, such as to French restaurants.

- **D-Day Lecture 6.6.24 Ghost Army**

As in the past, books will be sold at the lecture.

D. Lafayette Bicentennial – Subcommittee Meeting 4.18.24

Jim Holloway, liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), said that on May 7, 2024, at The Lyceum there will be a lecture and concert with music from Lafayette's time.

There was no additional information from what was previously reported on the three Lafayette events listed below:

- **Lafayette Walking Tours 10/5-6**
- **Lafayette Reception & Book Lecture and Signing 10/16**
- **Lafayette Dinner 10/17**

E. Liberation of Paris Event

ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafovs followed up with Peter Pennington, President of the British Officer Club (BOC) of Washington, DC, who spoke at our February 12, 2024, committee meeting. Peter had asked our committee to cosponsor with his organization a garden party at Lloyd House to celebrate the Liberation of Paris during World War II. Alex said that the BOC has held similar events like this in the past., which have been very successful. This event is scheduled for September 14, 2024. Alex and Peter discussed who would do what if we cosponsored the event. Basically, BOC will handle the food and drinks (cash bar), and ACSCC will handle the location and promotion. There will be some sort of 1940s music. Alex introduced a motion that the committee cosponsor this event with the BOC. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

F. FOIA Follow-up

Jim reported that he spoke to the City Clerk's office about a question that came up during the last committee meeting asking for clarification about emailing to the entire committee. Jim said that he was told by the Clerk's Office that emails can be sent to the entire committee bcc so long as any responses go back to the sender only, rather than by replying all.

V. New Business

A. Alexandria Sister Cities Happy Hour

Angelique said that the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee, which handles Alexandria's sister city relationships with Dundee, Scotland, and Helsingborg, Sweden, has a new chair, Eric Compton. He approached her suggesting that that our committee members and theirs have a Happy Hour to get better acquainted. ACSCC members were receptive to this suggestion.

B. Open Floor

No other new business was raised.

VI. Public Comment

Emmanuel and Susie DuBois were initially on the agenda at the October 2, 2023, ACSCC meeting to speak about the possibility of the committee supporting a public performance in Alexandria of his oratorio, *Requiem for the Fallen*. They returned to update the committee. They told the committee that they heard back from the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra, and they declined to add the *Requiem* to their schedule. Emmanuel said that this set them back to first base.

Emmanuel provided a short background about the *Requiem* for benefit of the new members of the committee. As the meeting was closing ACSCC new member Michael Bianco, who told the committee that he is President of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Choral Society, and Emmanuel and Susie DuBois, started talking further about the DuBois' proposal and other possible avenues for them to pursue to present their *Requiem*.

Susie raised that she was having difficulty accessing some of the committee's minutes online. Jim said it appeared that a link was broken and that he would fix the problem.

VII. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

ACSCC Member Attendees:

Michael Bianco
Stephen Hartka
Alex Jevgrafovs
Sydney Johnson
Donna Kenley
Kyly Larriviere
Angelique Moss
Jennifer Reading (by phone)
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Karen Fassi Wilbur (by phone)

City of Alexandria Government Liaison:

Jim Holloway

Public Attendees:

Emmanuel DuBois
Susie DuBois

2024 Calendar

January – Alumni Party 1/6
February –
March –
April –
May – Jazz Spring Fête 5/4
June- 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

Leslie Tourigny
ACSCC Secretary