

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes for Approval

Monday, July 8, 2024

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. when there was a quorum.

II. Ongoing Business

A. Volunteer Hours

Angelique reminded committee members to update their monthly volunteer hours on the committee spreadsheet in Google Drive.

B. Caen D-Day Visit Recap

Angelique provided a short recap of her trip to Caen with Mayor Justin Wilson and his wife to attend a busy schedule of commemoration events for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. She also said that she spoke with Caen Deputy Mayor of International Relations, Tourism and the Port of Caen Cecile Cottenceau and Noémie Dauchier from the International Affairs Office, both are in charge of Caen's relationships with its various Sister Cities, including Alexandria. They discussed how the pandemic had decreased the cooperative activities between Alexandria and Caen and what we could do to strengthen our relationship. Vice Mayor Cottenceau said this was not unique to Caen and Alexandria; this had also occurred between Caen and its other Sister Cities.

C. Middle School Exchange Update

ACSCC member Jennie Reading said she had no real updates since the last meeting. She reiterated that 26 6th and 7th grade students from Alexandria would be visiting Caen from October 1-15, and ACSCC donated \$500 toward the exchange. We will be welcoming a group of middle school students from Caen to Alexandria in the spring of 2025.

D. Liberation of Paris Event 9/14/24

ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafovs, who is the POC for the committee's joint garden party with the British Officers Club (BOC) of Washington DC, provided an update on the arrangements for the Liberation of Paris Event:

- September 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Lloyd House
- The goal is to sell 80 tickets @\$75 beginning in mid-July, through Eventbrite and to limit the number of complimentary tickets. BOC members will be given the right of first refusal of the tickets.
- Profits from the event will be split 50-50 between ACSCC and BOC.
- ACSCC will prepare the flyer and handle the advertising, using our mailing list.
- Bittersweet Catering will provide a buffet French meal, and there will be a cash bar staffed by BOC.
- There will be live music (French cabaret music and 1940s songs).
- Consideration is being given to having some short lectures during breaks in the music and maybe inviting attendance by someone from the French Embassy.

- ACSCC members will be needed for helping with the setup, beginning at 4:30 pm, and the cleanup after the event, as well as performing various tasks during the event.

E. Lafayette Bicentennial

1. Lafayette Walking Tours

ACSCC member Stephen Hartka, POC for the Lafayette Bicentennial events, said that historian Elizabeth Reese will be conducting two walking tours per day on October 5 and 6, at 10 am and 2 pm. Also, he reminded members that there would be a practice tour on September 26 at 6 pm.

The committee voted on two motions: 1. That we would charge \$15 per ticket for the walking tour; and 2. That we would pay Elizabeth Reese a \$500 honorarium. Both motions were passed by unanimous votes.

2. Lafayette Reception & Book Lecture and Signing 10/16

Stephen said that the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) would be handling arrangements for these events, but our committee needed to promote the lecture.

3. Lafayette Dinner 10/17

Stephen said that the committee has no role in the arrangements for the dinner.

4. Scavenger Hunt

Committee member Timotheos Tan, POC for the Lafayette Scavenger Hunt, updated the committee on the planning.

- The scavenger hunt, which will run from September 1 to September 8, is scheduled around Lafayette's September 6 birthday.
- It is a means of advertising the bicentennial events by building support from local businesses.
- Tim reported that to date there are 26 participating businesses. He indicated that most of these businesses were from Del Ray and Old Town, and there was some discussion on getting businesses from other parts of the city to participate.

III. New Business

A. Summer Cookout

At a previous committee meeting, it was decided that in lieu of a cookout, the committee will have its member social event at a restaurant. ACSCC member Candace Harman, the POC for this, spoke about some restaurants that she had contacted. There was also some discussion about other restaurant possibilities. Candace said she would send out a doodle poll so we can pick a date that will work best for committee members.

B. Fayette Street Naming

Angelique told the committee that she received a communication from a concerned citizen pointing out that even though Fayette Street is named after Lafayette it wasn't his full name. The consensus of the committee was that we should pass this communication on to the City Council.

C. Beaujolais Nouveau 11.21.24

Jim said that he needed to put together information on upcoming fall events and asked that he

receive a “blurb” about the Beaujolais Nouveau event.

Angelique asked for committee members to volunteer for Beaujolais Nouveau: Tim, Stephen, Candace, along with other ACSCC members Leslie Tourigny and Eric Trimble volunteered.

D. Intern Exchange 2025

Angelique said that Caen City representative Dauchier confirmed to her that Caen would resume the intern exchange with Alexandria during summer 2025. She said she will follow up with the Vice Mayor and let OHA Director Gretchen Bulova know.

E. Promo Video for Sister Cities

Angelique said that Eric Compton, Chair of the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee, which handles our relationships with our sister cities of Helsingborg, Sweden, and Dundee, Scotland, suggested to her that both of our committees should put together a promo video of highlights of Alexandria that we share with the city’s sister cities.

F. Marketing

Candace Harman volunteered to take over our marketing using Facebook, Instagram, and Mailchimp. Former committee member Antoine Dula Lopez, who setup our website on Wix, has agreed to continue as the webmaster.

G. Open Floor

Jennie thanked committee members and Jim for all they did to make our D-D commemorations the great successes that they were.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

V. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

ACSCC Member Attendees in Person:

Candace Harman
Alex Jevgrafovs
Donna Kenley
Angelique Moss
Elizabeth Reister
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble

ACSCC Member Attendees by Phone:

Stephen Hartka
Jennifer Reading
Karen Fassi Wilbur

City of Alexandria Government Liaison:

Jim Holloway

Public Attendees:

None

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 –Liberation of Paris Event 9/14

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