

# **Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee**

## **Draft Meeting Minutes for Approval**

September 9, 2024

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

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

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. when there was a quorum.

### **II. Member Updates.**

Angelique welcomed Kristi Waschull as a new member to the committee. Kristi said that she has lived in Alexandria since 1994, was recently retired from a career with the Department of Defense, had been a French and business major in college, and has traveled to France, including Caen. The other members of the committee briefly introduced themselves and welcomed Kristi to the committee.

Angelique announced that ACSCC member Ashlee Harper-Johnson is resigning from the committee.

### **III. Approve Minutes From June and July**

Angelique had emailed drafts of the June and July 2024 minutes to committee members prior to the September 2024 meeting for review. Committee members voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes as distributed.

### **IV. Ongoing Business**

#### **A. Liberation of Paris Event 9/14/24**

Following a short overview of the Liberation of Paris in 1944, Peter Pennington, President of the British Officers Club (BOC) Washington DC, briefed the committee on the event that both organizations are cosponsoring:

- Lloyd House will be set-up like a French café on September 14, 1944.
- Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1944 attire.
- Peter will be the MC, playing a role and dressed as a British military officer.
- He reiterated that he needs volunteers from ACSCC for set-up (beginning at 4 pm), during the event, and clean-up. Eight committee members volunteered.
- There will be a band, three military reenactors, and nobody from the French Embassy.
- Ticket sales were lagging. So far there were only 44 tickets sold, so he cut the food order to 50. To spur some more sales, he cut the ticket price from \$75 to \$60 in the final days before the event.
- Bittersweet Catering will be delivering the food at 6:00 P.M. and serving at 6:45 p.m.
- He emphasized that the cash bar is where the event really makes its money. Any leftover bottles of wine will also be sold.
- There was a discussion about the advertising for the event. ACSCC member Jennie Reading said that she had sent out the event flyer through the committee's Mailchimp account to our extensive email list.

## **B. Lafayette Bicentennial**

ACSCC Treasurer and POC for the Lafayette Bicentennial activities, Stephen Hartka, said that the city extended invitations to our Lafayette events to the Caen city leadership, but we haven't heard back yet whether anyone will be attending our events. Also, Stephen emphasized that we need to do marketing for the Lafayette activities.

Stephen updated the committee on the status of the various Lafayette events:

### **1. Lafayette Walking Tours 10/5-6**

He reminded committee members that historian Elizabeth Reese would be doing a morning and afternoon tour on October 5 and 6 and a practice tour on September 26, and he needed committee volunteers for all these events.

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

Stephen said that in addition to these events, there would also be dedication of a historic marker.

### **3. Lafayette Dinner 10/17**

ACSCC has no role with this.

### **4. Lafayette Scavenger Hunt**

ACSCC member Timotheos Tan, who has chaired this activity, reported that although this was supposed to end on September 8, it will be continued to keep up support for the Lafayette Bicentennial events.

Jim Holloway, who is the liaison from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) to the committee, announced that on November 24 at 3 pm at The Lyceum there will be a musical celebration of music from Lafayette's time, and they may need volunteers.

## **C. Middle School Exchange Update**

Jennie reminded the committee that 26 Alexandria students will be going to Caen on the exchange from October 2-15, and a group of French students will be coming to Alexandria sometime in the spring.

## **D. Beaujolais Nouveau 11.21.24**

This will be held at Lloyd House again, with a tent out back we can use that is set up in advance of Cider Fest, Ashlee said that Jim knows where a box of stemless wine glasses left over from last year's Beaujolais Nouveau are. These can be used again this year because they are undated.

Jim said that Cider Fest is being held on November 23. He explained that previously ACSCC handled Cider Fest, but the city has taken over responsibility. However, they still need our volunteer help because hundreds of people attend, and there will be community tables.

## **E. Marketing**

Angelique said that former committee member Elodie Guillon championed marketing, and now that she is no longer on the committee, we need other people to take over the various functions. This involves our website, and our Facebook, Instagram, and MailChimp accounts. Jennie has been sending out event publicity using Mailchimp, and ACSCC members Candace Harman and

Elizabeth Reister volunteered to also work on Mailchimp. Candace also said she could help with Facebook. Former ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez will continue helping with the website, and Tim volunteered to work with him. ACSCC members Sydney Johnson and Karen Fasi Wilbur volunteered to work on Instagram. Candace suggested that we needed a proactive marketing strategy, which we should discuss at our strategic planning meeting in January.

**V. New Business**

**A. Open Floor**

Ashlee reported that ACSCC efforts to find affordable arrangements to present the *Requiem for the Fallen* have been unsuccessful, so we have discontinued our further involvement.

Angelique reminded committee members that because the second Monday in October is a holiday, we will be meeting on the first Monday of the month, which is October 7.

**VI. Public Comment**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**VII. Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

**ACSCC Member Attendees in Person:**

Michael Bianco  
Candace Harman  
Ashlee Harper-Johnson  
Stephen Hartka  
Alex Jevgrafov  
Sydney Johnson  
Angelique Moss  
Jennifer Reading  
Elizabeth Reister  
Timotheos Tan  
Leslie Tourigny  
Kristi Waschull  
Karen Fasi Wilbur

**City of Alexandria Government Liaison:**

Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria

**Public Attendees:**

Peter Pennington, President of the British Officers Club (BOC) Washington DC,

**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; Practice Lafayette Bicentennial Walking Tour 9/26

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