

# **Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee**

## **Minutes**

Monday, June 9, 2025

Alexandria City Hall

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

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. when there was a quorum present.

### **II. Approve April and May Minutes**

Prior to the meeting, Angelique emailed the May draft minutes and a revision of the April minutes to committee members for review. In response, before the meeting, ACSCC member Eric Trimble sent out suggested changes to both sets of minutes to members. At the meeting, Eric made a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Leslie Tourigny, that the committee approve the April meeting minutes with his corrections. The motion passed unanimously. Eric then made a second motion, seconded by Leslie, that the committee approve the May meeting minutes with his corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Ongoing Business**

#### **A. Recap D-Day commemoration 6/1**

ACSCC member Jennie Reading, who chaired the commemoration and lecture subcommittee, provided her assessment of the event. She said that the commemoration was a great success because there was lots of committee participation. She commended ACSCC member Candace Harman, who was the MC, and indicated that Candace would chair next year's commemoration and lecture. Jennie pointed out that the community and military exhibitors were a good mix and enthusiastic participants. The surprise performances by a U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team were very well received and the swing dancers were good. Jennie pointed out that this was the first year that Voices for Vets provided the music and, in her estimation, they did a very good job at a lower price than we paid in previous years. She described how on the day of the event their singer had to cancel because she had COVID, and their last-minute substitute singer was fantastic. This assessment was shared by other committee members.

ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafovs brought up that there were continuing problems with the audio in the outside venue. Some of the issues can be attributed to the speakers not speaking directly into the microphone and some due to the audio speakers not projecting loud enough over Market Square. There was some discussion about what improvements the upcoming renovations of Market Square should consider to the audio transmission during outdoor events. Jennie mentioned that because of the upcoming renovations of City Hall and Market Square we will need to find an alternate venue for next year's D-Day commemoration.

ACSCC members Kristi Waschull and Karen Fassi Wilbur, who staffed the committee's table during the commemoration, suggested that by displaying paper flyers from the committee's prior events it was confusing, to attendees who thought they were upcoming events. They suggested perhaps information about prior events could be displayed on an iPad instead.

### **B. Recap D-Day Lecture 6/5**

As in previous years, the lecture presented by Dr. Kim Holien was well-attended. The consensus was that there seemed to be a dedicated group of attendees (“groupies”) who come every year. One suggestion was that there needed to be a reminder at the beginning of the lecture for attendees to silence cellphones.

### **C. Sister Cities Committee Working Group**

Eric said that he met with the working group on May 31, and their plan remains to hold three lectures at The Lyceum, i.e., one for each Sister City (Caen, Helsingborg, and Dundee) reflecting on Viking-related history pertaining to each city, perhaps with food and drink. Other activities could supplement these.

Eric reported that there is a group of students from Helsingborg coming to Alexandria in October.

### **D. French Resistance Lecture 9/25**

Angelique said that the committee will work on planning for this lecture at the August meeting.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. Summer Cookout**

Angelique reminded members that there would not be a committee meeting in July and that we needed to decide when we would want to schedule a committee summer cookout/social event. The consensus was to hold this event on Saturday, August 9. There were several locations considered: Gustave’s, Fort Ward Park, and Lost Boy Cidery, but no decision was made.

### **B. Welcome New Member Juliette Haynie**

Angelique welcomed new member Juliette to the committee. Juliette, who is a student at Alexandria City High School taking French 4, introduced herself to the committee. ACSCC members each then introduced themselves to Juliette.

### **C. New Event Ideas**

ACSCC member Michael Kutner shared with committee members his ideas for new events for the committee to undertake with the stated goal of presenting “a diverse range of events and activities to bring in and appeal to a diverse range of people and get them interested in contributing to our sister cities relationship.” There was discussion about several of his suggestions.

There was also discussion about including more Committee activities for children, which resulted in formation of a subcommittee on children’s activities. ACSCC members Sydney, Karen, and Reed Van Beveren volunteered for this.

Angelique reminded members to prepare an “Event and Program Planning Worksheet” for each activity they want the committee to consider.

## **V. Open Floor and Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **VI. Adjournment**

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

### **ACSCC Members in Attendance In-Person:**

Candace Harman  
Stephen Hartka  
Juliette Haynie  
Alex Jevgrafov  
Sydney Johnson  
Michael Kutler  
Brianna Meyer  
Angelique Moss  
Jennifer Reading  
Leslie Tourigny  
Eric Trimble  
Reed Van Beveren  
Kristi Waschull  
Karen Fassi Wilbur

### **City of Alexandria Liaison:**

Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria

### **2025 Calendar**

January – Alumni Party 1/11

February –

March – French Flow Yoga 3/22; Middle School Exchange – French Students Visit 3/29 -4/9

April –

May –

June – D-Day Commemoration 6/1; D-Day Lecture 6/5

July –

August –ACSCC Summer Cookout/Social Event 8/9

September – French Resistance Lecture 9/25

October – Helsingborg Viking Lecture 10/16

November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11/20; Cider Festival 11/22

December – Scottish Walk Parade 12/6

Leslie Tourigny, Secretary