

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2025

Alexandria City Hall

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Treasurer Stephen Hartka called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. when there was a quorum present.

II. Approve August Minutes

Prior to the meeting, ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss emailed the August draft minutes to committee members for review. ACSCC Secretary Leslie Tourigny raised three editorial corrections at the meeting, along with a motion that the committee approve the minutes as corrected. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

III. Ongoing Business

A. French Resistance Lecture 9/25

Stephen reminded members of the upcoming lecture and said that the committee needed volunteers to help out at the lecture. ACSCC member Candace Harman said that she would handle the logistics for the lecture and would send an email to members to sign up for specific assignments including bringing some food for the reception following the speaker. She said she would also do the same thing for the Viking Lecture and Beaujolais Nouveau.

B. French Family Workout 10/4

ACSCC member Sydney Johnson, who is handling the French Family Workshop, said that this event is an “easy lift for us” because we are partnering with Alexandria Fit4Mom, who is taking the lead. Because there will only be 15 family slots and five different workout stations, the publicity will be through an informal flyer on social media. ACSCC member Brianna Meyer said she could provide a coloring page of the Eiffel Tower for the children.

C. Viking Lecture 10/16

Jim Holloway, liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), said Angelique sent him information that Dr. Jennifer Paxton would be lecturing on *The Vikings At Home* on October 16. The event will be at The Lyceum.

D. Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting 11/20

- Stephen provided a short overview of this event for the benefit of members new to the committee since last year’s event. Sydney volunteered to coordinate the food arrangements to make certain that individuals with special dietary needs and food allergies could be accommodated. It was agreed that the ticket price would be determined at the next meeting. (Jim reminded members because the committee’s regularly-scheduled meeting date in October is a holiday, the meeting will be held on Monday, October 6).
- Stephen mentioned that on Saturday, November 22, two days after Beaujolais Nouveau is held at Lloyd House, will be the annual Cider Fest. This was started by ACSCC some years ago, but OHA has since taken over the event and some ACSCC members

volunteer. Jim explained that this is a fundraiser and last year 400 tickets were sold. There will be two volunteer shifts (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) and three people will be needed for each shift for the committee's tasting table.

IV. Open Floor and Public Comments

A. La Rentrée

ACSCC member Eric Trimble prepared and distributed to committee members a white paper about La Rentrée to consider for future program opportunities. Eric explained that while “in North America the return to class after the end of summer vacation is called ‘back to school’ and focuses on students, teachers, and educational institutions, in France, La Rentrée is a more comprehensive return from vacation for all elements of society, e.g., businesses, cultural activities, politics, etc. Eric suggested that starting in September 2026 ACSCC should consider sponsoring a cultural event to commemorate La Rentrée. There was a short, brainstorming discussion on types of activities ACSCC might sponsor to commemorate this French tradition.

B. Educational Seminars

ACSCC member Karen Fassi Wilbur started a conversation about whether any of our programs could be educational seminars about some municipal public policy, such as glass recycling drop-off stations, where we might highlight what Caen is doing, which might be instructional for Alexandria.

C. There were no public comments.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ACSCC Members in Attendance (In-Person):

Candace Harman
Stephen Hartka
Juliette Haynie
Sydney Johnson
Michael Kutler
Brianna Meyer
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Reed Van Beveren
Kristi Waschull
Karen Fassi Wilbur

ACSCC Members in Attendance: (Call-In)

Angelique Moss

City of Alexandria Liaison:

Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria

Member of the Public:

Kari Anderson

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 Social Event 8/9

September – French Resistance Lecture 9/25

October – French Family Workout 10/4; Viking Lecture 10/16

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

December – Scottish Walk Parade 12/6

Leslie Tourigny, Secretary