

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

Minutes

Monday, October 6, 2025

Alexandria City Hall

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. when there was a quorum present.

II. Approve September Minutes

Prior to the meeting, Angelique emailed the draft September 2025 minutes to committee members for review. ACSCC member Kristi Washull pointed out that one item in the minutes was erroneously attributed to her and needed to be corrected. Angelique raised a motion, which was seconded by ACSCC member Timotheos Tan, to approve the minutes as corrected. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

III. Ongoing Business

A. Annual Report

Prior to the meeting, Angelique distributed a copy of the committee's annual report (July 2024-June 2025) to the Mayor and City Council to committee members. She expressed appreciation to ACSCC Secretary Leslie Tourigny for preparing the report.

B. French Resistance Lecture Recap 9/25

ACSCC member Elizabeth Reister, who gave the opening and closing remarks at the lecture, said that Tom Young, the presenter and author of the book *The Mapmaker*, did a good job of explaining his book and the historical basis of the French Resistance. Mr. Young also sold copies of his books. The lecture was well-attended, with many attendees staying for the refreshments following the lecture.

C. French Family Workout 10/4

Angelique said that the event, which was a project of ACSCC member Sydney Johnson, was a success. However, because Sydney was unable to attend the October committee meeting, she will give an assessment of the event at the November meeting.

D. Viking Lecture 10/16

Angelique said that Dr. Jennifer Paxton from Catholic University, who has previously presented lectures sponsored by the committee, would be lecturing on "The Vikings At Home" on October 16 at The Lyceum. Because this event is a collaboration by ACSCC and the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee (Dundee and Helsingborg), members from both committees will volunteer at the event. From ACSCC, Angelique, Beth, Leslie, Candace and ACSCC treasurer Stephen Hartka will volunteer. Following the lecture, there will be a wine and dessert reception.

E. Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting 11/20

Angelique said she spoke to Mark Lotterie of Elite Wines about the wine and tasting commentary for the event. He has done this for past iterations of our annual Beaujolais Nouveau tasting event. In previous years, there were multiple food vendors, but this year there

will only be one, and Sydney is handling this.

Angelique raised a motion, which was seconded by Alex, that the event tickets remain the same as last year at \$70. The motion passed unanimously.

Angelique said that for anyone who was interested in serving on the subcommittee for this event there would be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m.

F. Cider Festival 11/22

Jim Holloway, liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria, indicated that for the 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. volunteer shift volunteers should arrive by 12:30 p.m., and for the 3:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. shift, they would need to stay until 5:30 p.m.

IV. New Business

A. D-Day Commemoration 2026

ACSCC member Candace Harmon, who will chair the 2026 D-Day commemoration, explained that because of the City Hall and Market Square renovation project, in 2026 we will not be able to hold the event in Market Square. There was much discussion about possible alternate venues, to include Oronoco Bay Park, Fort Ward Park, and in the Carlyle neighborhood. Candace said she would follow up and find out more information about these alternative sites.

Committee members discussed two possible dates for the commemoration: Sundays, May 31 or June 7. A final decision will be dependent on the availability of the venue we select.

B. Committee Winery Visit

Angelique suggested that the committee plan a winery visit in November as a social event for committee members. She said she will present several dates for branch members to consider.

C. Alexandria City Manager's Letter to City Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Prior to the meeting, Angelique distributed to committee members City Manager James Parajon's September 26, 2025, letter to City Boards, Committees, and Commissions about the FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget. Jim Holloway discussed the letter, which was asking for information on the committee's priorities, in order to inform the city's budget priorities and decision making. Jim said that OHA would answer the letter using the committee's priority information as stated in the committee's annual report.

V. Open Floor and Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

ACSCC Members in Attendance (In-Person):

Candace Harman
Stephen Hartka
Juliette Haynie
Alex Jevgrafov
Angelique Moss

Jennifer Reading
Elizabeth Reister
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Kristi Waschull

ACSCC Members in Attendance: (Call-In)

Reed Van Beveren

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 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