

# Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

Lloyd House

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

In the absence of ACSCC Committee Chair Angelique Moss, ACSCC member Candace Harman chaired the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. when there was a quorum present.

## II. ACSCC Annual Meeting Postponed

The annual meeting, which was scheduled for February 9 at 6:30 p.m., was postponed and will be rescheduled at a date to be determined no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of the fiscal year.

## III. Approve January Minutes

Prior to the meeting, ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss emailed the draft January 12, 2026, minutes to committee members for review. At the meeting, ACSCC member Kristi Washull introduced a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Beth Reister, that the committee approve the minutes as distributed. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

## IV. Welcome to New Committee Member

Candace welcomed new committee member Hannah Mazkour. Hannah introduced herself to the committee, and then the other committee members introduced themselves to Hannah.

## V. Ongoing Business

### A. D-Day Commemoration and Lecture

Candace, who is the D-Day Subcommittee Chair, said that Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) liaison to ACSCC, is finalizing the arrangement with Carlyle Square to hold the D-Day commemoration there on May 31, 2026. She said the event will be held in the grassy area at Carlyle Square from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., with the formal ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. and lasting for about an hour, as in previous years. Once arrangements are finalized with Carlyle subcommittee members agreed to schedule an on-site visit to understand the layout of the site, especially the stage area and the grassy area where the audience will sit. There was some discussion about whether chairs should be rented again, and the consensus was that they should be. Otherwise, sitting on the grass might be difficult for some senior citizens and some individuals with disabilities. The subcommittee scheduled its first meeting on Thursday, February 12, 8:00 pm on Zoom.

### B. Joint Sister City Specialty Liquor Tasting/Dinner

ACSCC member Tim Tan reported that he had been working with the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee on sponsoring a joint Sister City specialty liquor tasting and dinner event. The committees' preference is to cap attendance at 70 people and feature food, liquor, and music from all of Alexandria's Sister Cities. After ACSCC discussion, the consensus was that a Saturday in either September or October would be the best time for this event. Jim went over the availability for the Lloyd House, which Tim said was the preferred location. There was some discussion about whether we should have custom souvenirs. The consensus was that we would vote on the budget for this event at our March 9, 2026, committee meeting.

**C. French Book Club**

Tim updated the committee about his contacts with Old Town Books concerning working with them on sponsoring a French Book Club, which is an initiative that they are interested in. The focus would be books in English by French authors. Tim is proposing a continuous book club with them, which would also include a children’s books component. He also suggested that they may be able to identify a book to tie in in with our D-Day commemoration.

**VI. New Business**

**A. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States**

Jim from OHA provided an overview of some of the many activities the City of Alexandria is sponsoring to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States. He said that concurrent with the ACSCC meeting on February 9, there was a program at The Lyceum launching the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**1. Gatsby’s Tavern Game Night – Friday, March 27, 7pm – 9pm**

Jim confirmed that this was one of the scheduled activities, and there would be more information about this at the ACSCC March meeting.

**2. History Happy Hour**

Jim said that this was being organized working with local bars at a date to be determined In April. He would talk about this at the March ACSCC meeting.

**B. Conversation with Sister Cities of Nashville**

ACSCC member Reed Van Beveren said that he spoke with a member of the Board of Directors of Sister Cities of Nashville. He reported the highlights of their conversation:

1. Nashville's sister city program is structured as a standalone nonprofit that receives funds from the city to drive economic development. The relationship with Caen is themed around legal services and the Nashville and Caen bar associations have a very close relationship. They often coordinate with the bar association directly rather than the city.
2. The Nashville organization wants to explore some kind of joint virtual event with Nashville, Alexandria, and Caen (open to anyone from any of the cities) sometime this summer.
3. As of January, no decision had been made whether Nashville and Caen will be participating in an **intern exchange** during the summer of 2026. However, Nashville is definitely not hosting an intern, but may be sending an intern to Caen.

**VII. Open Floor and Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Candace adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

**ACSCC Members in Attendance in Person**

Kari Anderson  
Diana Elizabeth Garcia

Candace Harman  
Stephen Hartka  
Alex Jevgrafovs  
Hannah Mazkour  
Brianna Meyer  
Jennifer Reading  
Timotheos Tan  
Leslie Tourigny  
Reed Van Beveren  
Kristi Washull

**ACSCC Member in Attendance by Phone**

Elizabeth Reister

**City of Alexandria Liaison to ACSCC**

Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria

2026 Calendar

January – Alumni Party 1/3

February – Annual Meeting 2/9

March –

April –

May –

June – D-Day Commemoration 5/31; D-Day Lecture 6/4

July – << *No Committee Meeting* >>

August –

September –

October –

November –

December –

Leslie Tourigny, Secretary