

# Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

## Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025

Alexandria City Hall

### I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. when there was a quorum present.

### II. Approve June Minutes

Prior to the meeting, Angelique emailed the June draft minutes to committee members for review. ACSCC member Sydney Johnson introduced a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by ACSCC Michael Bianco. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Ongoing Business

#### A. Updates

On August 9, 2025, Angelique, along with ACSCC members Leslie Tourigny, Michael Kutler, and Brianna Meyer, met for a social get-together at Gustave Boulangerie & Brasserie in Del Ray.

#### B. French Resistance Lecture 9/25

ACSCC member Jennie Reading explained that ACSCC was approached months ago by author Tom Young asking if he could present a lecture under ACSCC sponsorship on the French Resistance. She said that Tom told her that in July his novel *The Mapmaker*, based on real events during World War II involving the French Resistance, was being released. Jennie said the lecture will be held at The Lyceum on September 25 at 7 pm. She said that she would see if a bookstore could offer *The Mapmaker* for sale at the lecture, which Tom would sign. Jennie asked committee members to contribute desserts for the reception at the lecture. Jim Holloway, liaison to the committee from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), will provide the wine. ACSCC member Alex Jevgrafov suggested that the wine should be French wine.

#### C. Viking Lecture 10/16

Angelique said that ACSCC member Eric Trimble stepped down from the working group with the Alexandria Sister City Committee (Dundee and Helsingborg) and asked if anyone else wanted to volunteer for the working group. ACSCC members Timotheos Tan and Reed Van Beveren volunteered.

Angelique introduced a motion, seconded by Michael K., that ACSCC co-sponsor a Viking lecture with the Alexandria Sister City Committee on October 16, 2025, 7 P.M. at The Lyceum, with ticket prices at \$15 for the general public and \$12 for OHA members. The motion was approved by a vote of 12 in favor and one opposed.

#### D. Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting 11/20

Angelique described this popular event sponsored annually by ACSCC and asked for members to volunteer for the subcommittee. ACSCC members Michael K, Eric, Reed, Sydney, and Karen Fassi Wilbur volunteered. Jennie and Leslie volunteered to help on the day of the event.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Mayor's Cup Rugby Challenge**

Plans have begun for this event next summer for floating dates in Dundee and Caen, and ACSCC member Stephen Hartka has been involved. Alexandria Rugby will send a team over to play in the tournament. Current plan is Alexandria arrives in Caen on July 30 and plays a match on August 1 or 2. Departure to Dundee is scheduled for August 4, with a match on August 8.

##### **B. French Family Workout**

Sydney prepared an *Event & Program Planning Worksheet* for a French Family Workout event, which Angelique sent to committee members prior to the meeting. At the meeting, Sydney went over the highlights of the event:

- ACSCC will partner with Alexandria Fit4Mom. Fit4Mom will cover the venue and teaching the class; ACSCC will plan the class with a French theme.
- The class format would be "Stroller Strides," which is a 60-minute total-body workout, while engaging children in a stroller. It would feature a French playlist. Following the class, there will be a French-themed activity.
- The event would be on Saturday, October 4, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, where Fit4Mom meets every Saturday.
- The class will be free if it is a family's first class with Fit4Mom. If the family has already attended a class with Fit4Mom, then it will be \$25. (Sydney will work with Fit4Mom to ensure this is clear in any marketing materials).
- The event would be zero-cost to the committee and would not generate a profit.

Angelique introduced a motion, seconded by Sydney, for ACSCC to approve this activity. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

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

A. Michael B. announced that this was his last meeting because he was moving to Wales and would therefore, resign from the committee.

B. Michael K. suggested that we sponsor a cooking class and recipe exchange event for our committee and the committee in Caen. There were a lot of suggestions about possible venues in Alexandria for a cooking class, the logistics involved, and how we could exchange recipes with the committee in Caen and connect virtually with them. Committee members were receptive to such an idea.

C. Kari Anderson, a member of the public, attended the meeting to find out more about the committee because she might want to become more involved. Kari said she was interested in the sister city concept and has had a lifelong interest in France. Angelique thanked Kari for attending and told her if she did want to apply for a position on the committee, vacancies are announced on the City of Alexandria website so she should check the website periodically.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

Michael Bianco

Alex Jevgrafov

Sydney Johnson  
Michael Kutler  
Brianna Meyer  
Angelique Moss  
Jennifer Reading  
Elizabeth Reister  
Timotheos Tan  
Leslie Tourigny  
Eric Trimble  
Reed Van Beveren  
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 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