

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2026

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 June Minutes

Prior to the meeting, Angelique emailed the draft June 16, 2026, meeting minutes to committee members for review. At the meeting, she introduced a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Timotheos Tan, asking that the committee approve the minutes as distributed. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

III. Ongoing Business

A. History Happy Hour (with Alexandria Sister Cities Committee) 8/13

Angelique reported that the Happy Hour, scheduled for August 13, 2026, was cancelled. She surmised that it might be presented at another time.

B. ACSCC x Old Town Books Book Club 8/21

Tim planned this book club meeting in collaboration with Old Town Books. It is free and open to the public and will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at Lloyd House. The book being discussed is *The Most Secret Memory of Men* by Mohamed Mbougar Sarr. It won the 2021 *Prix Goncourt*, which is France's top literary award. The author is the first Sub-Saharan African winner of this prestigious award. Tim had print copies of the event flier available that he distributed to committee members interested in displaying it.

C. Joint Sister City Specialty Liquor Tasting/Dinner 10/3

Tim has been working on planning this event tentatively for October 3, 2026, at The Lyceum jointly with the Alexandria Sister City Committee. At our last committee meeting on June 16, 2026, Tim went over the planned details of the event, but because there were several committee members absent and some details yet to be decided, voting on the event budget was delayed until this August 2026 meeting.

Tim explained that there would be whiskies and canapes representing Alexandria's Sister Cities of Caen, France; Helsingborg, Sweden; Dundee Scotland; and Gyumri, Armenia. He was requesting that the committee approve a \$3,000 budget for the event. Committee members inquired whether that amount was to be split between the two committees and how the profits were to be split between the two committees.

After much discussion, there was consensus among committee members that until we had answers to our concerns, we could not vote on the budget. With this being the case, committee members expressed that holding the event as soon as October 3, 2026, would not be feasible. Consequently, ACSCC requested that Jim Holloway, liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria, release the October 3 date that the committees had reserved at The Lyceum for the specialty liquor tasting/dinner. At ACSCC's request, Jim is instead holding February 4, 2027, at The Lyceum as a tentative date for this event.

ACSCC member Kari Anderson volunteered to work with Tim as a liaison to the Alexandria Sister City Committee to see if the two committees can work out a mutually agreeable budget for the Joint Sister City Specialty Liquor Tasting/Dinner.

IV. New Business

A. Committee Updates

Angelique said that ACSCC member Brianna Meyer is resigning from the committee because she explained that her work commitments do not enable her to participate fully in ACSCC activities.

Angelique also reported that she will be closing on the purchase of a house outside of the City of Alexandria, and consequently, will have to resign from the committee. She said the September meeting will be her last meeting, and at that time, committee members will have to elect a new ACSCC chair. Committee members expressed appreciation to Angelique for her excellent leadership.

B. D-Day 2027

ACSCC member Candace Harman will be chairing the D-Day 2027 subcommittee. ACSCC members Leslie Tourigny and Eric Trimble volunteered to work on the subcommittee again. ACSCC member Diana Garcia volunteered to work on the D-Day lecture. ACSCC member Hannah Mazkour said that her husband has volunteered to develop the event flyers and program.

ACSCC members agreed that Sundays have worked out to be a good day for the D-Day Commemoration. There was a consensus that although June 6, 2027, is on a Sunday, it would not be a good day for the event because we would be competing with many other D-Day events for speakers and reenactors. Also, the Sunday before June 6 is May 30, which was also ruled out because it is Memorial Day Weekend and there will be many other special events competing for attendees.

Committee members continued their discussion from the June 16, 2026, meeting about how to shorten next year's program, and what possibilities were there to better showcase the U.S. Coast Guard Silent Drill Team and the Alexandria Citizens' Band. Both of these entities raised complaints to the committee about their beliefs that they were under-utilized at the 2026 commemoration,

C. Beaujolais Nouveau 11/19

ACSCC members Stephen Hartka, Reed Van Beveren, Kari Anderson, and Eric Trimble volunteered to work on the planning committee for this event.

V. Open Floor and Public Comment

Reed talked about his recent trip to France, which included one day in Caen.

ACSCC member Jennie Reading said that the next Middle School Student Exchange between Caen and Alexandria is scheduled for Alexandria students to go to Caen in October 2027, and Caen students to come to Alexandria in October 2028.

VI. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

ACSCC Members in Attendance in Person:

Kari Anderson
Diana Garcia
Candace Harman
Stephen Hartka
Alexandre Jevgrafov
Hannah Mazkour
Angelique Moss
Jennifer Reading
Elizabeth Reister
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Reed Van Beveren

City of Alexandria Liaison to ACSCC in Attendance;

Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria

Members of the Public:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2026 Calendar

January – Alumni Party 1/3

February –

March – Gatsby’s Tavern Game Night 3/27

April –

May – D-Day Commemoration 5/31

June – D-Day Lecture 6/4

July – << No Committee Meeting >>

August – ~~History Happy Hour 8/13~~; ACSCC x Old Town Books Book Club 8/21

September –

October – ~~Joint Sister City Specialty Liquor Tasting/Dinner 10/3~~

November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11/19; Cider Fest 11/21

December –

Leslie Tourigny
Secretary