

# **Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee (ACSCC) Meeting Minutes**

Monday, September 12, 2022

Lloyd House – 220 N. Washington St, Alexandria, VA

## **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Although there was not a quorum of committee members present at that time, there was a quorum within a short amount of time when additional members arrived.

## **II. Approve Minutes from August**

ACSCC member Dan Morrison prepared the minutes for the August 8, 2022, meeting, and prior to the September meeting, Angelique distributed a draft to committee members for review. Jim Holloway, liaison to the Committee from the City of Alexandria Office of Historic Alexandria, identified several changes that needed to be made in the minutes. The changes will be made and the revised minutes will be considered for approval at the October 3, 2022, ACSCC meeting.

## **III. Au revoir Allison**

Angelique told the Committee that ACSCC member and Secretary Allison Wynn's term on the committee expires at the end of September 2022, and because Allison is busy at work, she is not going to apply for another term. Angelique lauded Allison's work on the committee. She asked the Committee to approve ACSCC member Leslie Tourigny to be Secretary, but a vote was deferred to later in the meeting because there was not a quorum present yet.

Angelique said that ACSCC member Scott Campbell's term expires at the end of October 2022. Scott said that he already filed papers to be reappointed for another term.

## **IV. Ongoing Business**

### **A. Beaujolais Nouveau**

ACSCC member Elodie Guillon contacted Marc from Elite Wines concerning our November 17, 2022, Beaujolais Nouveau event. He would do a wine tasting presentation for us for free, but we would have to purchase the wine from Le Vintage Wine Shop in Old Town Alexandria. Jim confirmed that we could purchase from this wine store. Marc does not sell Beaujolais Nouveau, but Elodie said we could select wine that had some relationship with Caen. There was also discussion among committee members about selecting several wines from the Beaujolais region.

Elodie also contacted Chef Hugh about the food. Angelique described that in the past the food menu consisted of "filling" hors d'oeuvres. Elodie said we would pay Chef Hugh for the food, but he would do an accompanying presentation for free. She suggested that we needed to select the menu first with him and then follow up with Marc to pair the food with wine.

Angelique set the following deadlines:

- September 23-Set the menu with Chef Hugh
- September 28-Marc determines the wine pairings

- Everything needs to come together by our next meeting on October 3 so the brochure and publicity can be worked on and distributed.
- Dan suggested contacting the *Zebra*, *Alexandria Gazette*, and *Alexandria Times* to publicize the event.

Angelique said that the event will be held at Lloyd House. She suggested holding it between 7:00-9:30 p.m. Since Cider Fest is being held on November 19 we will be able to use the outdoor tent on November 17 for the Beaujolais Nouveau. Event. We should anticipate 100 people maximum, counting the indoor and outdoor space. In the past we charged \$40 per person, but we need information from the food and wine vendors in order to set this year's price per ticket.

Angelique asked if we wanted to volunteer at the Cider Fest November 19 between 1-5 p.m. helping out and promoting the committee. There was a consensus to do this.

ACSCC member Ashlee Harper-Johnson reported that she contacted the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association about renting their event space at the Athenaeum. She went over the costs with the committee to save for future reference.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Scottish Walk/Barkus**

Angelique said that the Scottish Walk, which ACSCC will be participating in, is on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Also, she said that the Office of Historic Alexandria would be holding the Sister City Dinner that night. Committee members, City Council members, and other guests could attend.

Angelique then asked ACSCC member Kyly Larriviere to discuss Barkus, her idea for ACSCC to sponsor a French-costumed dog component to the Committee's participation in Scottish Walk.

Kyly explained that Alexandria and Caen both love dogs so Barkus is a good fit for the Committee's participation. There was a lot of discussion about where the meeting spot should be for the costumed dogs and their escorts, what the publicity should consist of, how we could ensure donations for a local animal shelter under our name, how we could get some support from a local pet store, and whether we should have the costumed dogs judged.

Kyly suggested that the meeting spot for the costumed dogs and their escorts should be Windmill Park because it was a large area. A lot of discussion ensued about whether this would be a good spot or whether it would be too far from the parade route.

ACSCC member Laura Withers said that she volunteers at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, and suggested that would be a good place to collect/direct donations to. She said they might be able to supply someone to be a judge.

Kyly said she would check with pet stores about swag and will report back at the next meeting.

### **B. Cocktails and Confections**

Elodie reported on her contact with Annie Clemmons from Chapman's in DC about presenting a Cocktails and Confections event as an ACSSC fundraiser around Valentine's Day. She said Clemmons shows desserts and works with a partner who pairs the desserts with cocktails. Elodie said it would be good if the desserts could have a connection to Caen, maybe featuring apples. In addition to the food and drink costs, Clemmons and her partner do charge for their services unlike the individuals she contacted for Beaujolais Nouveau.

The Lyceum was discussed as a venue because their ABC license would allow serving the cocktails.

Angelique suggested that this event could be on either February 8 or 9, 2023, for 2 hours.

Elodie will get back in touch with Clemmons to discuss further details and costs.

### **C. Fall/Winter Programs**

Angelique suggested that we ask Dr. Jennifer Paxton, who is a Professor at Catholic University, to present a lecture in November. The committee previously sponsored a lecture by Dr. Paxton in November 2020, that was well-received.

Leslie said that she thought there was not enough time to plan such a program for November, especially with Beaujolais Nouveau, Cider Fest, and the Scottish Walk/Backus all happening before the end of the year.

Laura agreed, and suggested that January would be a better time. There was consensus for waiting to schedule a lecture by Dr. Paxton.

On another matter, ACSCC member Kerem Bilge reported back on his contact with the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums in response to Pascal Pimont's interest in a collaboration/exchange between pipe bands in Caen and Alexandria. Kerem said that because the person whom he spoke to at the Alexandria Pipes and Drums was interested, he emailed Pascal and gave him the contact information. He has not heard whether or not a contact was made.

### **D. Open Floor**

Angelique said that City Councilman John Chapman, who is the City Council liaison to ACSCC, will be attending our meeting on November 14, 2022.

ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez discussed how he had been working on improving the Committee's website. He also suggested that we do a French musical program sometime.

Angelique reintroduced a motion that Leslie should be the committee Secretary. Kerem seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the appointment.

### **VI: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **VII: Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

**2022 Calendar**

January – 1/29 Zoom Across the Atlantic  
February –  
March –  
April – 4/30 Farmers Market and May Day Soirée  
May –  
June – 6/2 D-Day Lecture, 6/4 D-Day Commemoration  
July –  
August –  
September –  
October –  
November – 11/17 Beaujolais Nouveau  
December – 12/3 Scottish Walk/Barkus & Sister City Dinner

**ACSSC Member Attendees:**

Kerem Bilge  
Scott Campbell  
Elodie Guillon  
Ashlee Harper-Johnson  
Kyly Larriviere  
Antoine Dula Lopez  
Dan Morrison  
Angelique Moss  
Michael Skardon  
Wesley Thomas  
Leslie Tourigny  
Laura Withers

**City of Alexandria Government Attendee:**

Jim Holloway

**Public:**

No attendees

Leslie Tourigny  
Secretary