

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

Monday, October 3, 2022  
Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

## II. Approve Minutes from August and September

Angelique had distributed drafts of the August and September 2022 meeting minutes to committee members for their review prior to the October meeting. At the meeting, committee members unanimously approved both the August and September meeting minutes, as corrected.

## III. Ongoing Business

### A. Beaujolais Nouveau<sup>1</sup>

ACSCC member Elodie Guillon was back in touch again with Chef Hugh Cossard of Food Expression to discuss the food menu for our Beaujolais Nouveau event. It will include Jambon de Bayonne, cheeses, some desserts, and a baked chicken dish. She also reported that she contacted Marc Lotterie of Elite Wines again, who will provide wines and commentary during the winetasting. Elite Wines gave us a list of wines with prices to select from, and we are considering a crisp white wine, a bold red wine, and a sparkling wine. Elodie noted that Marc will not provide or do a tasting for Beaujolais Nouveau; he does not sell it because it is notoriously bad. She suggested that we serve everyone some Beaujolais Nouveau when they first arrive since, after all, we are holding a Beaujolais Nouveau event!

The event will be held at the Lloyd House, 220 North Washington Street, on November 17. The tent that will be set up outside of Lloyd House for the Cider Festival on November 19 will also be available to be used for the Beaujolais Nouveau event on November 17. Angelique said that Chef Hugh will set up his stations inside Lloyd House, and the winetasting would be in the tent. The attire for the event would be cocktail attire.

There was much discussion about whether or not there should be music, and what constraints the small space at Lloyd House might put on such. One idea raised was that ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez could serve as DJ. Elodie said that she would also price some other music. ACSCC member Jennie Reading said she remembered the committee used a DJ in the past and would try to find his contact information. Jim Holloway, liaison to the Committee from the City of Alexandria Office of Historic Alexandria, confirmed that the PA system that can be used in Lloyd House would enable him to put speakers in the tent outdoors. He also said that there will be space heaters in the tent.

There was a quick discussion as to what should be done with the small room on the left after you enter Lloyd House. One suggestion raised was to use it as a photo room where attendees could take selfies—maybe wearing French berets. No decision was made.

ACSCC member Dan Morrison said so far both *The Zebra* and *Alexandria Living* will attend and cover the event. He suggested that they should be given one complimentary ticket each.

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to the October 3, 2022, committee meeting, the Beaujolais Nouveau subcommittee renamed the event, Beaujolais Soirée.

Angelique suggested that we also give one complimentary ticket to Dr. Jennifer Paxton, who is a Professor at Catholic University, who previously delivered a lecture for the committee. ACSCC member Kerem Bilge suggested that we do the same for the D-Day lecturer, Dr. Kim Bernard Holien. There was consensus on comping these four tickets plus one more to the Arlington-Reims Sister Committee. The number of complimentary tickets would be capped at five.

Angelique said that there were still some major decisions to be made concerning the event, including the number of tickets to be sold, ticket pricing, publicity, plus more, but that the subcommittee still needed to make these decisions before they could be voted on by the whole committee. It was decided that once these decisions were made, Angelique would arrange for an electronic vote by the committee using google forms.

### **B. Scottish Walk/Barkus**

ACSCC member Kyly Larriviere, Barkus Chair, talked about some ideas she has for the Scottish Walk/Barkus. She said that she would contact several of the local dog establishments, e.g., Olde Towne School for Dogs, the Dog Park on King Street, Barkhaus, Lost Dog Café, and Paw Spa, to see if they would donate prizes. Also, Kyly said she would explore with a vendor to see if we could offer bandanas for sale. Because it was not clear to committee members if our committee needed to register to participate in the Scottish Walk, Kyly said she would contact Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, to find out the answer.

The Committee agreed that on December 3 the meeting spot for those participating in Barkus and their dogs would be Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union Street, at 10 a.m.

November 17 was set as the deadline to have flyers completed so they could initially be distributed at the Beaujolais Nouveau event.

### **C. Cocktail and Confections**

Elodie reported that she followed up further with Annie Clemmons from Chapman's in DC about doing a Cocktail and Confections Valentine's Day event for us on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Lyceum. She said that Clemmons provided a price estimate for a three drink/two confection format for 80 people, which she shared with Angelique. Elodie explained that Clemmons works with Mick Perrigo, who is the cocktail maker/mixologist, and they both will do a presentation at the event.

Angelique read from the estimate:

**\$250-300** Spirits and mixers

Three half-size cocktails per guest (approximately two oz. each, X three cocktails = six oz. cocktails total, TBD)

Two confections per guest (TBD)

**\$400** Demonstration/recipe guidance Annie Clemmons

**\$400** Demonstration/ recipe guidance Mick Perrigo

Full (approximately two-hour) demonstration and guidance for each cocktail, confection

Recipe and resource guide (pdf available for printing)

**Total: \$1050-\$1100** (This does not include items such as plates, cups, etc. which we would have to provide and pay for.)

Angelique pointed out that we never before paid individuals \$400 for presentations at our events and wondered whether there was room for any negotiation. Elodie added that the price was non-negotiable. There was much discussion about this, but the consensus was to go ahead with this event.

Jim described the possible room set-ups, types of tables available, and venue capacity. There was discussion about the possibilities, but no decisions were made.

Jennie was able to find the name of the DJ she mentioned earlier in the meeting during the Beaujolais Nouveau discussion (see III.A). His name is Joseph Gueron.

#### **D. School Exchange**

Angelique said that she looked into the status of Sister Cities of Nashville's student exchanges with Caen because Nashville also has a Sister City relationship with Caen. Nashville has had student exchanges in the past with Collège Hastings, which is a public school in Caen, and are expecting to resume in 2023, after a delay because of the pandemic.

Jennie said that she spoke with Jessica Krantz, a former ACSCC member who is currently a French teacher at George Washington Middle School. Jessica would be the leader of a renewed student exchange program between Alexandria and Caen if it happens. Jennie said she discussed with Jessica concerns about whether Middle School St. Paul in Caen, which has been raised by the committee in Caen as a possible participant in an exchange program with Alexandria, would be an appropriate partner with an Alexandria public school because it is a private, religious school. According to Jennie, Jessica said it has been explained to her that unlike their American counterparts, private schools in Caen are not very expensive. Jessica cited that she had been quoted a figure of \$230 Euros as the cost to attend this school. For this reason, she thinks it would be fine for George Washington Middle School to partner with the Middle School St. Paul and would be speaking with the George Washington school principal. There were varying opinions expressed by committee members about this, but in the end, there was a consensus that this was a matter for the Alexandria City Public Schools to decide.

ACSCC member Leslie Tourigny mentioned that when she visited Caen in July and met with Caen committee members Angelique Provost and Pascal Pimont, they mentioned Jessica Krantz's name a lot. It was apparent they had been in contact with her about the exchange program. Angelique Provost showed pictures of Jessica she had on her cellphone.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Halloween Alumni Party**

Jennie explained that in the past she hosted a Halloween party for current and former committee members and others at her house. Because of the pandemic, it's been several years since she has been able to host this event. However, she announced that she will once again be hosting a reunion soiree at her house this year-- on Friday, October 28, at 7 pm. It will be a potluck, and she will send out Evites with further information. Committee members thanked Jennie for her hospitality.

#### **B. Arlington-Reims Sister Committee Holiday Party 12/13. 6-8 pm.**

Elodie said that she had been contacted by a member of the Arlington-Reims Sister City Committee who invited ACSCC members to their Holiday Party on December 13, 2022, from 6-8 pm. She expressed that it was a good opportunity for us to talk with them and exchange ideas about our programs. On September 25 she had sent an email to ACSCC members about this party, but several of the committee members had not received the email.

### **C. Open Floor**

No other new business was raised.

### **V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **VI. Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:58 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 & Sister City Dinner

### **ACSSC Member Attendees:**

Kerem Bilge

Scott Campbell

Elodie Guillon

Ashlee Harper-Johnson

Stephen Hartka

Kyly Larriviere

Antoine Dula Lopez

Dan Morrison

Angelique Moss

Jennifer Reading

Wesley Thomas

Leslie Tourigny

### **City of Alexandria Government Attendee:**

Jim Holloway

### **Public:**

No attendees

Leslie Tourigny  
Secretary