

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee (ACSCC)
Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 14, 2022
Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Welcome New Member Eric Trimble

Angelique announced that the Alexandria City Council appointed two new members to the Committee—Miguel Serrano and Eric Trimble. Eric was present at the meeting so Angelique welcomed him and gave him an opportunity to introduce himself. Eric stated that he is Canadian and moved to Alexandria two-and-a-half-years ago to be near his daughter, who lives right outside the City in the Huntington section of Fairfax County. He explained that his timing could have been better because he moved the first day of the Covid lockdown. Eric said that he retired from a career working in business global companies. Although he conducted business in France, he has never been to Caen.

III. Approve Minutes from October

Angelique had distributed a draft of the October 3, 2022, meeting minutes to committee members to review prior to the November meeting. At the meeting, she introduced a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Kerem Bilge, asking for the minutes to be approved. The committee members unanimously approved the October meeting minutes, as distributed.

IV. Ongoing Business

A. Recap of Halloween Alumni Party 10/28

Angelique thanked ACSCC member Jennie Reading and her husband for hosting a Halloween party at their home on October 28 for current and former committee members. Jennie explained that she thought it was important to hold social events like this so that committee members could know each other better, which would benefit their working relationships on committee events. She said that the reason for holding this party on Halloween came about because in the past Halloween was not big in France so French people would come to celebrate Halloween in the United States. She said that has since changed. Several other committee members praised the party and Jennie and her husband for their hospitality.

B. Beaujolais Soirée

Because this event would be occurring three days after this committee meeting, the majority of meeting time focused on details of the Soirée.

Angelique discussed the committee's online vote subsequent to the October committee meeting to approve a \$3000 budget and \$55 ticket price for the Soirée. Of the 16 committee members at the time, 14 members voted, and they unanimously approved the budget and ticket price as presented. However, Angelique explained that because some additional expenses arose since the online vote, i.e., Chef Hugh Cossard of Food Expression's food and supplies would cost more than originally proposed, and a friend of ACSCC Member Elodie Guillon would make pate for the event, she was asking the committee to approve a budget of \$3500. Committee members unanimously approved the higher budget. Angelique said that she was optimistic that the event

would be sold out because of the 80-ticket goal for the Soirée, only eight tickets remained to be sold as of November 14.

ACSCC member Ashlee Harper-Johnson arranged for the “special gift” all of the attendees will receive, i.e., a custom stemless wine glass. She showed the logo she designed to be imprinted on each of the glasses by 4 Imprints. Everyone agreed that it was beautiful. The total price for 96 custom glasses was \$343.76, which included a set-up fee and freight charge. This came out to \$3.58 per glass, and we would try to sell any remaining glasses.

Angelique led a discussion about the set up, flow, and timing of each phase of the Soirée, as well as committee member assignments. Jim Holloway, Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Liaison to the Committee, provided answers to many of the questions raised during the discussion.

- Jim said that because the small parlor room to the left of the entry foyer was being used as a storage room for the Alexandria Cider Festival, it would not be used during the Soirée and the door would remain closed.
- There would be a check-in table set up in the entry foyer with two clipboards with a list of paid ticketholders and Square available for anyone who wanted to buy a ticket at the door and pay by credit card. We are anticipating up to five individuals attending using complimentary tickets that we will provide them, including Dr. Jennifer Paxton (who has delivered lectures for ACSCC in the past and is scheduled for another one on March 30, 2023), and *The Zebra*.
- Behind the check-in table, the custom wine glasses will be displayed and filled with Beaujolais Nouveau as a welcome drink. Attendees will be told to hold onto the glass because it will be used for the tasting and was theirs to keep.
- In the main parlor room (to the right of the entry foyer) the food will be set up, with several high top tables with tablecloths and candles.
- The tent will be set up outside in the courtyard behind Lloyd House. There will be some heaters because temperatures are forecast to be as low as 23 degrees during the event.
- There needs to be a podium and microphone set up in the tent, tables for the wines to be organized, a big ice bucket to keep some of the wines cold, and lots of corkscrews.
- There will be 10 round tables with chairs set up in the tent, where at 7:45 p.m. the winetasting will begin. It will last less than an hour. Everyone will be pouring wine.
- Angelique said she would take care getting some sort of small vessel to put in the middle of each table so that attendees can spill any wine they weren't going to consume in it before the next wine was poured to taste.

- Because ACSCC member Antoine Dula Lopez will be the DJ, he and Jim discussed how to broadcast his playlist in the tent, with two speakers there and one in Lloyd House.
- Jim emphasized that all the garbage needed to be cleaned up and taken out of Lloyd House and the tent once the event is over. He offered to use his vehicle to take it off-site.
- ACSCC member Jennie Reading said she would handle nametags for committee members and would purchase small bottles of water.

C. Alexandria Cider Festival

OHA will be holding the Alexandria Cider Festival on November 19 from 1-5 p.m. at the Lloyd House. This is an annual festival that was started in the past by a former member of ACSCC because Caen is located in Normandy, France, which grows apples and produces several ciders. Angelique asked for any committee members who could volunteer at the festival to let her know.

D. Scottish Walk/Barkus 12/3

ACSCC member Kyly Larriviere updated the committee about the Fête de Barkus, which the committee is sponsoring as part of its participation in the Scottish Walk Parade.

Gretchen Bulova, Director of OHA, helped ACSCC secure the permit we need to participate in the parade. Based upon the order of participants in last year's parade, ACSCC members Dan Morrison and Leslie Tourigny discussed that ACSCC (with our banner, which is being stored at Lloyd House) would probably be at the front of the parade, behind the Dundee Sister City Committee, and before the elected officials.

Kyly said that we have four sponsors for the event: Olde Towne School for Dogs, the Dog Park, Head to Tail Spa, and Barkhaus. The meeting spot is at Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union Street, at 10 a.m. The contest participants must arrive by 10:15 a.m. when the judging will take place. Kyly said that we need a Judging Committee composed of three or four people. Jody from Head to Tail Spa has volunteered. Committee members suggested Angelique and Kyly as well. Kyly said she is looking to businesses to donate prizes. She thought that she would need some sort of small sound amplifier at the event, especially at the judging, and Kerem said he had one that could be used.

ACSCC member Laura Withers showed committee members a draft flyer she prepared for the event. She indicated she wasn't entirely happy with the dog picture she used and was looking for a better one. Angelique did some searching online and showed Laura another possibility. The committee had decided at a previous meeting that although the event would be free, we would suggest that participants consider donating to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). The flyer says that "A suggested donation of \$10 is strongly encouraged." A QR code is provided and asks that the donation be made in honor of the ACSCC. The flyers will be displayed at the Beaujolais Soirée. Committee members were asked to distribute the flyer when it is finalized.

E. Sister City Dinner 12/3

Angelique mentioned that on December 3, the night of the Scottish Walk, OHA is, once again, sponsoring the Sister City Dinner. Because of the pandemic this annual event was last held in 2019. Angelique said that invitations were sent to members of the committee. Several of the committee members said that they did not recall receiving an invitation. It was suggested that they double-check in their spam/junk email folder

F. Arlington-Reims Sister City Committee Holiday Party 12/13

Angelique reminded members that the Arlington-Reims Sister City Committee invited our committee members to their holiday party on December 13 from 6-8 p.m.

G. Cocktail and Confections

ACSCC Member Elodie Guillon indicated there was nothing new to report concerning the February 9, 2023, Cocktail and Confections event.

H. School Exchange

There was nothing new to report concerning a school exchange between Alexandria and Caen.

V. New Business

A. Lecture

Angelique indicated that she spoke to Dr. Jennifer Paxton to see if she would present another lecture for the committee. Dr. Paxton agreed to present a lecture on “Caesar’s Conquest of Gaul” on either March 28, 29, or 30, 2023. It was the consensus of the committee to hold this event on March 30th, so long as there was space available at the Lyceum for that night. Jim will check on this and report back to the Committee.

B. Open Floor

No other new business was introduced.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 9:06 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 Soiree
- December – 12/3 Scottish Walk & Sister City Dinner

ACSSC Member Attendees:

Kerem Bilge
Elodie Guillon
Ashlee Harper-Johnson
Stephen Hartka
Alex Jevgrafovs
Kyly Larriviere
Antoine Dula Lopez
Dan Morrison
Angelique Moss
Jennifer Reading
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Laura Withers

City of Alexandria Government Attendee:

Jim Holloway

Public:

No attendees

Leslie Tourigny
Secretary