

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

Monday, December 12, 2022

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There was a quorum present.

**II. Welcome New Member Miguel Serrano**

Angelique reminded committee members of our two newest members—Miguel Serrano and Eric Trimble. Miguel was present this month, so Angelique welcomed him and gave him an opportunity to introduce himself. Miguel stated that he recently moved back into Alexandria City and is an attorney with an office about a block away from City Hall. He has tried to learn French and was born in Havana, Cuba, but been in the DC Metro area since the 90's. Afterwards everyone else on the committee introduced themselves individually.

**III. Approve Minutes from November**

Angelique distributed a draft of the November 14, 2022, meeting minutes to committee members to review prior to the December meeting. At the meeting, she introduced a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Ashlee Harper-Johnson, asking for the minutes to be approved. The committee members unanimously approved the November meeting minutes, as distributed.

**IV. Ongoing Business**

**A. Recap of Beaujolais Soirée 11/17**

Angelique thanked all the ACSCC members for their help executing such a successful event. Committee member Dan Morrison recapped the event stating the guests really seemed to enjoy themselves, the food, and the wine. The discussions, presentation, and tastings matched the price point of the ticket price perfectly and the swag glasses were a great addition this year. Other members added that guests really enjoyed the speaker and purchased wine from him. The event itself was sold out which was fantastic. It was pointed out that there were two guests sitting off by themselves not at a table, but no one really knew why. Although the tent was warm enough, next year we would like to send out a reminder email to dress for the weather. Lastly, Dan mentioned that having journalist attend the event was very helpful.

**B. Barkus/Scottish Walk 12/03**

Committee member Kyly Larriviere gave us a recap of our first Barkus event. She noted a good turnout but thinks the rain kept more people from attending. Those who attended the event agreed that committee member Antoine Lopez brought two really cute corgis dressed as French mimes that stole the show. Committee member Laura Withers' parents brought their dog all the way from Boston. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes will be sent along with thank you cards signed by the committee members in attendance today.

**C. Cider Week 11/19 (left off the meeting agenda)**

Hosted at the Lloyd House from 1-5pm. Committee member Antoine Lopez lead the recap of the event stating he really enjoyed it but next year wants more planning to be done in advance (to include décor, which wines we bring, etc.) and that we didn't serve the cider that was

advertised. He also mentioned the people attending really enjoyed the wine the committee selected for the event. Those working at the event got to advertise to a younger crowd that was completely different than the crowd two nights before with Beaujolais. Committee member Elodie Guillon requested the guest list for this event, which was approximately 300 attendees. Angelique stated that this crowd could be a good audience for the upcoming Cocktails and Confections event.

#### **D. Sister City Dinner 12/03**

Those who attended really enjoyed themselves and the food. The Lord and Lady of Dundee came to Alexandria for the weekend of events, which include the Scottish Walk Parade, the dinner, and the water parade. Out of all committees, we had the longest list of events recapped for the year. The other committees would like to do more events with us, but we do not know what that would look like just yet.

#### **E. Arlington-Reims Sister City Committee Holiday Party 12/13**

Elodie reminded us to RSVP for the event on the 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. No new news about the event.

#### **F. Cocktails and Confections 2/9/23**

Elodie handed out the program planning worksheet for the event, themed, “The Magic of Love.” This event will feature tastings of cocktails from DC cocktail expert Mick Perrigo and confections from renowned pastry Chef Annie Clemmons. There will be a demonstration from both Annie and Mick showcasing three cocktails and will incorporate origami to create the two desserts.

- This will be held at the Lyceum from 7-9pm. The Lyceum has a max capacity of 95, so 85 attendance and possibly 10 committee members.
- Cocktail Attire
- The committee brainstormed ways to add the event to the calendars of those who receive information about our events. No solution has been reached at the moment since we cannot use a platform like Eventbrite. Ultimately, we will keep exploring ideas to advertise upcoming events to our contacts/promotion lists.
- Antoine volunteered to try and cleanup/update our excel spreadsheet of emails.
- The total budget of \$1200 was voted on and approved by the ACSCC members, but there was a lengthy discussion about the price of the tickets. Alex mentioned that a high-ticket price could make our events unattainable to Alexandria’s senior citizens on a fixed income that traditionally love to attend our events. He suggested having a lower ticket price available and having an honor system that those purchasing tickets will respect it.
- The ticket prices voted and approved by ACSCC will be \$39 for senior citizens 65 and over and \$49 for the general population.
- Reminder that we will need to have an allergy warning on the flyer.

#### **G. Dr. Paxton Lecture- Caesar’s Conquest of Gaul 3/30/23**

Dr. Paxton has been confirmed. Nothing new to discuss for now. Will table the discussion until the new year.

#### **H. School Exchange Update**

The principal approved the program, but they also put in their resignation notice so the program is still confirmed for now. Will continue discussion in the new year.

**I. Intern Exchange**

It is our most solid program and in need of volunteers to help picking someone by the month of May. Will continue discussion in the new year.

**v. New Business**

**A. Spring Concert- April/May 2023**

Committee member Mike Skardon introduced the idea of a spring concert hosted at St. Paul Episcopal Church featuring Adriano Spampinato, Washington opera talent playing the organ, piano, and harpsicord. The evening will feature a program of French music and there will be no charge to use the venue. Mike did suggest a payment \$1k be raised to pay the featured artist. We can sell tickets for the event that Mike is sure will attract most of the church’s congregation (who are familiar with the artist already) and the venue holds approximately 400 people. A Friday evening after Easter is preferred. The church has also offered to host the reception after the event. The ACSCC voted in favor of the event and will continue planning in the new year.

**B. Zoom Across the Atlantic- January 2023**

We will be requesting a 30 min meeting. More details to come after the new year.

**C. Advertising and Social Media**

In the future meetings will need to consider the cost to do business which includes paying for quality and effective local advertising.

**D. Open Floor**

Antoine has made some progress on the goal to re-do our website. He suggests using a google platform and will solidify the pricing in the new year.

**VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Adjournment**

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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  
Alex Jevgrafovs  
Kyly Larriviere  
Antoine Dula Lopez  
Dan Morrison  
Angelique Moss  
Eric Trimble  
Mike Skardon  
Miguel Serrano  
Wesley Thomas

**City of Alexandria Government Attendee:**

Jim Holloway

**Public:**

No attendees

Ashlee Harper-Johnson  
ACSCC Member