

# **Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee**

## **Draft Minutes for Approval**

Monday, September 11, 2023

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

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

ACSCC Secretary Leslie Tourigny called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm when there was a quorum. When ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss arrived, she took charge of the meeting.

### **II. Approve Minutes from June**

Angelique had distributed a draft of the June 12, 2023, meeting minutes to committee members to review prior to the September 11, 2023, meeting. Leslie suggested a small change concerning the committee members who had resigned and those who would be resigning. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as changed.

### **III. Ongoing Business**

#### **A. Recap of the Summer Cookout-8/12/23**

Everyone who had attended the cookout thanked ACSCC member Laura Withers for planning the event and reserving a picnic area at Fort Ward Park. The consensus was that the location worked out well, notwithstanding the very hot weather. ACSCC member Ashlee Harper-Johnson asked whether members thought there was a better time of year to hold this social event. After a short discussion, it was decided that because the committee's workload was lighter during the summer, it still is the best time for this committee social event.

#### **B. Beaujolais Nouveau-11/16/23**

- As in past years, this event is being held at Lloyd House, two days before the annual Alexandria Cider Festival (November 18, 1-5 p.m.). This enables us to also use the tent put up for the Festival for the Beaujolais event. Before we talked about the Beaujolais event, Jim Holloway, liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), asked if ACSCC members would be volunteering for the Festival, as we have done in the past, and the answer from committee members was "yes."
- ACSCC Member Elodie Guillon agreed to chair the Beaujolais event. Angelique indicated that she may have a work conflict that would prevent her from attending the Beaujolais event. In that case, she said someone else will need to serve as the MC for the event. Laura said it was possible that she might have a work conflict also. Ashlee, Leslie, and other ACSCC members Kyly Larriviere, Antoine Dula Lopez, Jennie Reading, and Eric Trimble, said they could volunteer.
- Elodie suggested that we go with the same vendors for the food and wine as last year, which was very successful. There was consensus among committee members that last year's event was great, the food was plentiful, and that Elodie should contact both vendors to determine their availability and costs for this year. Jim pointed out that there were nuts in some of the foods, which was problematic for people are allergic. Leslie said that this should be raised to the food vendor to ensure there are no nuts in this year's food.
- There was much discussion about what we should charge for tickets this year, and whether the pricing should include a discount for seniors, as we have done for some of our events during the last year. It was decided that until we have firm prices from the vendors and for other items we will need to purchase for the event, it was premature to decide on ticket

prices.

- Ashlee brought up that many commemorative glasses that she procured for last year's Beaujolais event are left over and questioned whether we could still use them this year, even though they have last year's date on them. A decision was not made on this question, except for suggestions that future glasses not have the date.
- There was much discussion about what sort of music we should have. Jennie brought up as a possibility, DJ Joseph Gueron, Glo Beats, who has provided music in the past for us. Upon further discussion, she thought that since we have background music for the Beaujolais event, Gueron may be better for one of our future events at the Lyceum where he might be more of a feature performer. She is going to speak to him about possibilities in the future for him to perform at an event for us, and also to find out what his fee would be.
- Jim suggested that Antoine act as DJ for the music again this year, adding that Antoine put together a great playlist last year. Jim also mentioned that there are now new Bluetooth speakers that can be used in Lloyd House.
- Laura asked if we distributed a written program of the wines/ciders that were used at last year's Beaujolais and Cider events, and the answer was "no." She suggested that we provide written programs with this information this year so that people have a ready reference of what they drank in case they wanted to purchase any of them.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Future Programs

- Jennie said that she would be hosting a **Sister Cities Reunion Party** for current and alumni members of the committee at her home on **October 27, 2023, at 7 pm**. She said she will be sending out invitations.
- **Scottish Walk Parade-December 2, 2023**. Members agreed that they wanted to participate again as a unit in the parade. Jim will check to see if we need to submit a separate application to participate. However, the consensus was not to sponsor the **Fête de Barkus** (the costumed and judged dog parade) again. It was labor intensive, and the rainy weather kept participation at a minimum.
- **D-Day Commemoration (June 2) and Lecture**-Jennie will be chairing these events in 2024, which will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- There was discussion about the committee's very successful "La Fete du Muguet" May Day celebration back in 2022 and whether we should do something like that again. There were suggestions that we should consider a Spring Fling earlier in the spring so we could have adequate time to plan it, especially since it would be close in time to when we will be planning the D-Day commemoration and lecture.
- Laura has reached out to the **Alexandria Symphony**, which always is featured at the Alexandria Birthday Celebration, to see if we may be able to work with them (either the full orchestra or a quartet) at one of our events.
- Jim said he was approached by **composer Emmanuel M. DuBois**, who lives in Old Town Alexandria. DuBois wrote a symphonic piece called *Requiem for the Fallen* that he would love to see performed in Alexandria, maybe in conjunction with D-Day events. After some discussion committee members suggested that Mr. DuBois be invited to a committee meeting to discuss all that would be involved in performing his musical piece.
- Antoine suggested that we host a fun event, such as a **petanque tournament**. Petanque is a French game similar to what we know as boules. He said there's an area across the street from La Bastille Restaurant on Fayette Street where it can be played. Members were receptive to the idea, suggesting that maybe we could schedule it during the 2024 summer

Olympics in Paris.

- Leslie suggested that we need to touch base with Gretchen Bulova, OHA Director, very soon about reinstating the **summer intern exchange program between Alexandria and Caen in 2024**. We started planning in January 2023 for what we were hoping would be a reinstatement during the summer 2023, but it was too late in the planning cycle.

## **B. Open Floor**

No other new business was raised.

## **V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Angelique reminded committee members that the next meeting will be on Monday, October 2, 2023, instead of October 9, which is a holiday. Jim said he would need to find another location for the October meeting. Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

### 2023 Calendar

January –

February – Cocktails & Confections 2.9.23

March – France and the Gauls: From Caesar to Astérix Lecture 3.30.23

April – An Evening of French Classical Music 4.14.23

May –

June – D-Day Lecture 6.1.23, D-Day Commemoration 6.4.23

July –

August – Summer Cookout 8.12.23

September –

October –

November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11.16.23

Cider Festival 11.18.23

December – Scottish Walk Parade 12.2.23

### **ACSCC Member Attendees:**

Elodie Guillon

Ashlee Harper-Johnson

Alex Jevgrafovs

Kyly Larriviere

Antoine Dula Lopez

Angelique Moss

Jennifer Reading

Wesley Thomas

Leslie Tourigny

Eric Trimble

Laura Withers

### **City of Alexandria Government Liaison:**

Jim Holloway

**Public:**  
No attendees

Leslie Tourigny  
ACSCC Secretary