

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: February 16, 2022**

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar

Public Registration URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsZHf9pgTJG29cIEEDFmHg

Meeting/Webinar ID: 922 1607 7097

Meeting/Webinar Password: 431483

Dial-in number: 301-715-8592

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)

Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large
(Secretary)

Dylan Colligan, Alexandria Business
Community Representative

Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large

Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative

Ann Greer, Member at Large

Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large

Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of
Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)

Representative

Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative

Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria

Foundation Representative

Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria

Historical Society Representative

Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Absent:

Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair) - Excused

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Public:

Michael Johnson

Call to Order

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice City of Alexandria by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Eleanor Breen

Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, January 19 meeting minutes. Dick Owens moved to accept the minutes. Jake Hoogland seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved.

Chair Report - Ivy Whitlatch

Happy 47th Anniversary to the Commission – the oldest commission of its kind in the country!

Ivy asked the Commission to start thinking how it can start getting ready for the 50th Anniversary.

HARC Update - HARC announced it is looking at the process of how to advocate to the City Manager to nominate the Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC) to the National Register of

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Historic Places. Al Cox, former City Historic Preservation Manager, presented to HARC ~~on~~ how to nominate the TFAC and pros/cons of such a listing as an individual property (~~t~~he TFAC is already a contributing resource to Old ~~Town and~~ Historic District). Eleanor Breen and Seth Tinkham clarified being listed in the National Register of Historic Places is honorific, needs owner consent, and is a planning tool for communities to advocate for and record what is important to them.

New City Council Packets Update - Paula Whitacre

Paula reported that packets, including a letter, Ted Pulliam's book, Alexandria Archaeology brochure, and a Fort Ward brochure, were delivered by Ivy and her to City Hall last week. Packets were made for all City Councilmembers, as well as the new City Manager. Each letter included an invitation to contact Ivy to set up a Zoom virtual "meet and greet."

Revisit the AAC Ordinance - Ivy Whitlatch

HARC also discussed changing membership requirements in its ordinance. HARC established a Composition Subcommittee to work on this. Ivy shared with HARC ~~what the~~ AAC's proposed language for our ordinance's change. HARC ~~hasn't~~ ~~has not~~ decided on proposed language change yet. The original plan was to put in one request from AAC and HARC via Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, to City Council; however, with HARC not having decided at this time, AAC is in a holding pattern. Eleanor suggested we let Gretchen know AAC is ready to proceed and ~~to~~ ask her ~~to push to the City to~~ ~~get request it~~ on the Council's docket. Ted and Paula agreed AAC should move ahead in March if HARC has not made progress.

Strategic Planning/ Work Plan for FY23 (July 1-June 30) - Ivy Whitlatch

Ivy and Eleanor proposed four (4) key areas to focus on in FY 23:

1. Waterfront/TFAC
2. African American History
3. Archaeology Museum
4. Celebrating the 50th ~~annivesary~~ ~~anniversary~~ of the AAC

AAC discussed these four and made additional suggestions, such as broadening to celebrate other national and local commemorations and Hispanic History.

Membership Update

Dick shared that his term is up this Spring. FOAA is set to talk about its representative on AAC at its March meeting. Dick will report back at the AAC March meeting whether he will continue to represent FOAA on AAC or if another person will be appointed.

Seth is about to hit his 10-year mark as a commissioner and questioned his term limit. Eleanor offered to check on his term limit.

Awards Committee - Jake Hoogland

Jake and Ivy shared that AAC will need to start planning for the "Del Pepper Award," which will be presented in October.

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Planning Updates and Reports

In Esther White's absence, Ivy provided the update on the Waterfront Commission. Esther recommended to Ivy prior to this meeting to have Matthew Landeis as an invited guest to the AAC this spring to do a presentation on flood mitigation projects. Eleanor offered to coordinate with him for our April meeting. Seth suggested we also invite [Daniel Medina, Program Manager, City of Alexandria's Flood Action Program](#), ~~the new floodplain manager,~~

Torpedo Factory Vibrancy Plan – Ivy Whitlatch (Link to Agenda Alexandria [Panel](#))

Ivy noted that this meeting hosted by Agenda Alexandria at the end of January had a similar conversation/presentation that the AAC saw from Dianne Ruggerio, Office of the Arts, so there was no new information to report ~~back on~~. The meeting focused mostly on the ~~artists~~ [Artists](#), but Alexandria Archaeology was mentioned once in regards to the museum space.

African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam shared that the committee will meet tomorrow to consider the most recent draft of the southern section of the Trail. Eleanor provided that this section is taking longer than the northern section because of the COVID-19 pandemic and there are more stops with more in-depth research. The Office of Historic Alexandria received funding for 11 signs along the southern section.

Staff Reports - Eleanor Breen

Eleanor acknowledged Black History Month and noted that Black history is Alexandria history. She shared her gratitude to the AAC for its support of the City's efforts to tell more stories of the [African](#) American ~~American~~ experience in Alexandria.

Eleanor reminded the AAC that the George Washington Birthday Parade is on [Monday](#), February 21. She invited AAC members to join in walking with Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA. She will share more info via email.

Eleanor shared other updates on ship models, ship timber ponding, Alexandria Archaeology graphic logo, Fort Ward Improvements meeting in January, budget request for flood mitigation at Douglass Cemetery, and Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp this July.

Public Comment

Michael Johnson shared that he works for the City in Recreation and Community Outreach. His great-great grandfather is buried in Douglass Cemetery. Johnson is a lifelong resident of Alexandria with an interest in learning about its history.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 16.

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Commented [EB1]: When these go up as a PDF, I don't think they're clickable. We might need to embed the link.

Commented [JB2R1]: Do you have the link? Or should I look for it?