

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: April 20, 2022
Lloyd House, 220 North Washington Street
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Rebecca Doser [on phone], 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
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Absent:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large (Secretary)
Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria Historical Society Representative

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Guests:

Christine Hines, FOAA President
Matt Landes, Portfolio Manager, Project Implementation

Public:

John Oldfield

Minutes recorded by John Oldfield and Esther White

Call to order: Esther White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (Ivy excused absence)

Review and Approval of Minutes: AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, March 16 meeting minutes. Jake Hoogland motioned to accept the minutes with no changes. Dick Owens seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Planning Updates and Reports:

Special Guest Matt Landes, Department of Project Implementation, gave a talk and took questions on the **Waterfront Flood Implementation Project**.

City of Alexandria has been studying and planning this project for decades.

They estimate they need \$200 million for the project, and are looking for other grant funding. They have a \$50 million grant application outstanding with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for a BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant. If approved they would need a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Environmental Assessment. Could have Section 106 implications/requirements as well.

Matt circulated the design concept in February 2022 – no major changes since then. They have a Progressive Design-Build contract.

Esther White is the liaison between the AAC and the Waterfront Commission – has been active.

Paula asked a question about climate change and its impact on the plan. Matt said his team looked at that question keeping in mind the lifespan of the project – 50-75 years.

Recommendation: 6 foot tall elevation of protection; no one wants any visual obstruction, so no taller; Matt expects 2-4 events per year that would exceed this six foot elevation; the new pump stations will help quickly recover from those events.

Seth asked a question about the impact of the project on the historical built environment as well.

African American Heritage Trail Committee – nothing to report from Ted Pulliam

Chair Report (Ivy absent, Esther reported)

- No **HARC update**
- City Council Packets: very successful; Councilman Kirk McPike visited; AAC also met with Councilmember Sarah Bagley – she is very interested in the ship ponding project; AAC has a call scheduled with Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins; mention was made of the great City Council turnout at the launch of the SeeWorthy exhibition/volunteer party.
- AAC Ordinance Update: City Council meeting on Thursday, April 7 approved a change to AAC's bylaws
 - allowing an 'equivalent organization' to the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage to be on the Commission
 - There are several organizations including: African American Hall of Fame; Alexandria Community Remembrance Project; Friends of Douglass Cemetery; African American churches

Joint FOAA/AAC meeting: Christine Hines report –

- There will be a meeting on Saturday, June 4

Strategic Planning/Work Plan:

Esther moved to postpone this until the next AAC meeting; Seth seconded; motion approved

Select Awards Committee: Two awards: Ben Brenman and Del Pepper. There should be two to three AAC Members on this committee; they will solicit nominations in May/June; then submit to AAC for consideration; AAC votes. Committee members will also create the physical awards, which will then be given out in October (Archaeology Month). Nick Dienna and Paula volunteered

Note: May is Historic Preservation Month

Spring2ACTion was discussed, also various ways for the public to contribute to AAC – e.g. volunteer, attend meetings, support FOAA financially; shop with Amazon Smile

Commission Report on Key Initiatives:

- FOAA Update: nothing further

- Visit Alexandria: Rebecca said they have a new website coming soon; and are preparing for Freedom House reopening anticipated end May 2022
- Alexandria Association: Ted Pulliam mentioned a lecture on Monday, May 16
- Alexandria Historical Society – no update
- Historic Alexandria Foundation – no update – grant proposals close May
- Business community – no update
- Planning District updates - no updates

Staff reports:

- Fort Ward activity ongoing; there was a pre-construction meeting in April 2022; topics included the ADA-accessible walkway; the Javins House
- Pre-construction meeting for the ship ponding project on April 19 2022; approximately 12 community members present along with Matt Landes and AECOM (contractor); there may be a role for volunteers to be present on site during the work, to explain the work and the SeeWorthy project to onlookers; no role for volunteers in the water
- May 15: SeeWorthy in the Park event, 12-4pm; need volunteers for multiple stations
- Eleanor Breen mentioned groups of school children visiting
- Portside History event – June 18, 1-5pm
- There could be more training for SeeWorthy volunteers

Next AAC meeting is Wednesday, May 18

Volunteer Hours: Eleanor will do by email

Seth moved to adjourn; Dick Owens seconded; meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.