

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: May 18, 2022**

7:00 P.M.

**In-person Meeting at Lloyd House
220 N. WASHINGTON STREET**

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair)
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large
(Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Ann Greer, Member at Large (via phone)
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of
Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)
Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Absent:

Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative - excused
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative - excused
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation Representative - excused

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Public: None

Call to Order

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, April 21 meeting minutes. Esther White moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Jake Hoogland seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report – Ivy Whitlatch

- Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) Update: two new members to HARC were welcomed at their Tuesday, May 17 meeting. HARC is going through revisions to its composition of members. It is currently a 26 member commission and proposing to drop to 20 members. HARC appointed Martha Raymond as lead for task force stakeholder group. HARC changed its original letter to the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review (BAR) re: Torpedo Factory Art Center Vibrancy Plan. Instead of requesting endorsement from BAR to pursue a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Torpedo Factory, HARC will now just inform BAR of the status of the nomination process.
- AAC Ordinance Update: Ivy and Eleanor Breen will write letters to specific organizations to invite them to learn more about the vacancy (Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization). Let Ivy know if you have any suggestions for equivalent organizations.

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- Membership Update: Christopher Warren resigned from the AAC. AAC will need to fill the vacancy for representative from Alexandria Historical Society.

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

- Ivy suggested the AAC take a co-chair structure approach for each of the four priority topics. Co-chairs will be expected to meet about the topic/work planning and then disseminate info to the rest of the subcommittee.
 - Several AAC members volunteered to be part of the African American History topic.
 - Museum - Ann Greer, Dick Owens, and Ralph Rosenbaum volunteered
 - 50th Anniversary of AAC
 - Waterfront
 - AAC discussed the co-chair structure/two members meeting at a time versus announcing subcommittee meetings publicly. Motion made by Dick to forgo co-chair structure and therefore, post publicly about work planning group meetings where there is expected to be three or more AAC members. Motion seconded by Paula Whitacre. Motion passed. (AAC members are to send meeting notices to Eleanor or Jennifer Barker at Alexandria Archaeology.
- Ivy will send out work planning group assignments to Commissioners via email.

Select Awards Committee and Chair - Ivy Whitlatch

- AAC continued discussions around the creation of an award in addition to the annual Ben Brenman Award. Types of potential recipients and the presentation of such award were also shared.

Planning Updates and Reports

- Waterfront Commission – Esther White
 - Esther mentioned that the Waterfront Commission's "Waterfront Walk" will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 9 a.m. at Robinson Terminal North/River Renew. It is open to the public.
- African American Heritage Trail Committee – Eleanor, in Ted Pulliam's absence
 - Eleanor shared that the final long draft of the website content is done. Now it is off to the web editor before final posting on the website.
 - There is now funding available to install new signage in associated with the African American Heritage Waterfront Trail, but actual locations of signs remain to be determined.
- Samuel Madden Redevelopment – Ivy Whitlatch, in Seth Tinkham's absence
 - Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) will redevelop the Samuel Madden Public Housing, 3.44 acres located along Henry and Patrick Streets (Route 1 South and Route 1 North) between Madison and First streets and in the Parker Gray Historic District.
 - Ivy shared that Seth reached out to the City about the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process/mitigation for this redevelopment project, with the concern for archaeological resources potentially affected. Seth was informed that the Section 106 process was initiated. Eleanor shared that this redevelopment plan is going through the City's Archaeological Code review and Garrett Fesler, Archaeologist, thought there could be Civil War related deposits present. The City is requiring the developer to hire an archaeologist to do archaeology work.

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- Therefore, AAC needed to decide whether or not to be a consulting party to the Section 106 process. Paula Whitacre moved to have AAC continue as a consulting party in the Samuel Madden Public Housing redevelopment project; Esther seconded. Motion passed.
- Ralph moved to have Seth be the representative of AAC during consultation. Paula seconded. Motion passed.
- Torpedo Factory Stakeholders Committee Representation - Ivy Whitlach
 - Ralph moved to have Ivy represent AAC on this committee; Esther seconded. Motion passed.
 - Ivy will ask if it is appropriate for AAC to assign an alternate if she cannot attend at a given time.

Select Awards Committee and Chair

- Nick Dienna and Paula agreed to be on the Awards Committee last month. During the meeting, Dylan Colligan and Liz Vehmeyer volunteered to be on the Awards Committee, too.
- Advertise for Award Nominations
 - Ben Brenman Awards nominations will need to be solicited via a press release. Awards are announced in October for Archaeology Month.
 - Eleanor will send out a Press Release for Ben Brenman Awards, soliciting nominations before the end of May, with a due date of early July.

Commissioner Reports on Key Initiatives

- FOAA Update - Dick Owens
 - Dick shared that the volunteer docent program is going well with the SeaWorthy exhibit at the Museum/Torpedo Factory ground floor.
- Visit Alexandria - Rebecca Doser
 - Absent/Nothing to report
- Alexandria Association - Ted Pulliam
 - Absent/Nothing to report
- Alexandria Historical Society - Chris Warren
 - Resigned/Nothing to report
- Historic Alexandria Foundation - Seth Tinkham
 - Esther reported for Seth. Historic Alexandria Foundation announced its latest grant awardees and Alexandria Archaeology received a grant for new/updated museum interpretive signs. A ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 5 at the Historic Alexandria Foundation Annual Meeting.
- Business Community - Dylan Colligan
 - Nothing to report
- Planning District Updates - Multiple
 - Nothing to report

Staff Reports - Eleanor Breen

- SeeWorthy Exhibit Update
 - Eleanor reminded AAC that the exhibit runs through the beginning of June.
- Ship Ponding Update
 - Eleanor gave a PowerPoint/photo presentation of the timber ponding process, from warehouse/bus barn storage tanks to Ben Brenman Park pond. City hired AECOM to do

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the ponding and continues to have the assistance from the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab. The Ship Ponding process was covered by the local ABC affiliate (WJLA) and will be part of an article for *Archaeology Magazine*.

- With the Ponding public engagement day canceled due to rain, Eleanor shared she is looking to reschedule a public day to October during Archaeology Month.
- Eleanor mentioned she is scheduled to present to the Historic Alexandria Foundation on the Ship Ponding on Friday, May 27.
- Fort Ward Update
 - There will be a walkabout to talk about other possible locations for the playground on Wednesday, May 25 at 10 a.m. Eleanor encouraged AAC members to attend if interested.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held **in person** on Wednesday, June 15 at the Lloyd House.