

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: June 15, 2022
LLOYD HOUSE, 7 P.M.
220 N. WASHINGTON STREET

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Elizabeth (Liz) Vehmeyer, Member at Large
(Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation Representative (via phone)
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Absent:

Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair) - excused
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large -
excused
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large-
excused
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of
Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)
Representative - excused

City Staff:

Garrett Fesler, 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, May 18 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report – Ivy Whitlatch: Membership - Eleanor Breen and Ivy are working on a letter that will go out to African American associated organizations to fill vacant commission seats. If AAC members have organization suggestions, let Ivy and Eleanor know. There is also a need to fill the Alexandria Historical Society Representative seat after Christopher Warren's resignation. Jake Hoogland is leaving Alexandria this summer and his at-large seat will need to be filled.

AAC Representation Reports:

- HARC Update - Ivy Whitlatch - Monthly HARC is next Tuesday so nothing to report.
- Waterfront Updates
 - Waterfront Commission – Esther White – not present to report
 - African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam - Next step is to add the southern section of the trail to the website.
- Samuel Madden Redevelopment – Seth Tinkham - Nothing new to report but Seth asked if anyone else had heard anything about the project or if it is in a holding pattern? Garrett Fesler shared that it is in a holding pattern, as no further designs have come through. A subconsultant archaeologist has been hired as requested by the City of Alexandria and they

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are in midst of research. Seth would like some direction from AAC on how to participate in the Section 106 process after the holding pattern. Seth shared at this time it is expected that AAC will be a consulting party or will be invited to be a consulting party, unlike with Ramsey House redevelopment where AAC was only a signatory to the Section 106 Memorandum of Understanding to mitigate adverse effects to the historic homes.

- Torpedo Factory Stakeholders Committee Representation – Ivy Whitlach - representation on this Stakeholder Committee is through an application process. Ivy is working on submitting her application to be the representative for AAC to the Office of the Arts. Expectation is there will be 20 seats on the Stakeholder Committee.

Backyard Digging - Garrett Fesler

- Garrett provided an overview of an ongoing issue of a group of people asking permission of private landowners to dig wells/privies then take artifacts, mainly bottles, and sell them via sites like eBay. This is not safe nor is it archaeology. This practice wipes out a section of the archaeological record and takes away from our shared heritage and stewardship of the city's resources. Zebra magazine showcased these Backyard Diggers in the past. At that time, Ivy wrote an editorial about it and spoke at the Old Town Civics Association about it. Alexandria Archaeology is trying to combat it via alerting other City departments and divisions (e.g. Transportation and Environmental Service's Public Works Services division), drafting an Alex311 (City's customer service system) option for property owners to report a sinking area in a yard, documenting properties that have been impacted, and speaking directly with property owners. Garrett then asked the AAC to brainstorm any other ways the AAC can help with messaging and awareness, as fellow residents/non-City employees.
- Ideas included:
 - More outreach as to what Alex 311 is to general residents as they might not know that service or actively use it.
 - Include messaging about this as part of the 50th anniversary of AAC, as was done by the AAC in the 1970s around the issue of bottle hunting in the City.
 - Print and Social media campaigns.
 - A magnet for fridge with phone number to call.
 - An info table at the Old Town Farmers Market.
- No decisions made on one approach to take. Discussion expected to continue, but AAC did ask Garrett for a one-pager on the issue that the AAC can then use to craft other materials/campaigns.

Committee Reports and Break Out Session

- Ivy shared Committee assignments and then each Committee had a 15 min break out session to plan for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - Awards Committee – Liz Vehmeyer, Dylan Colligan, Paula Whitacre, and Nick Dienna
 - 50th Anniversary - Ivy and Rebecca Doser
 - African American Initiatives - Ted, Esther, and Paula
 - Museum - Ann, Ralph, and Dick Owens
 - Waterfront - Seth, Ann, and Esther

Commissioner Reports

- FOAA Update - no report

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- Visit Alexandria - Rebecca Doser - Portside Festival is this weekend. The Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) will have a STEM activity. If you would like to volunteer for a shift at the OHA tent on Saturday, June 18, contact Emma Richardson. Freedom House Museum grand opening/event will take place on Monday, June 20 at 6 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church Worship Center at 1401 Jamieson Avenue, across from the museum.
- Alexandria Association - Ted Pulliam - This past Sunday, the Alexandria Association celebrated its 90th anniversary. At the event, Ted suggested to the Association chair that Eleanor give a presentation as part of the Association's next speaker series starting in the fall. Ted invited Eleanor Breen to give a presentation next year.
- Alexandria Historical Society – no report
- Historic Alexandria Foundation – no report
- Business Community – no report
- Planning District Updates – Paula Whitacre (Planning District III) – Paula shared that there is a Fort Ward playground listening session next week and she plans on attending.

Staff Reports – Garrett Fesler

- SeeWorthy Exhibit Update – Exhibit has been relocated to the 3rd floor event space across from the Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC). The exhibit, while in the lobby of the TFAC, saw over 2000 visitors in two months and benefited from over 90 hours of volunteer docent time. Eleanor Breen is in talks with EYA, developers of Robinson Landing, to see if this exhibit can be placed there.
- Ship Ponding Update - The ponding went very well! The project was completed ahead of schedule. In the end, the team submerged 1185 timbers in Ben Brenman Pond. Alexandria Archaeology is now working on a plan for approximately 15 timbers that would not sink. Future steps include a Public Event on Saturday, Oct. 1, registering it as an archaeological site, and AECOM consultants submitting a report on the project to the City. Alexandria Archaeology will also implement a monitoring schedule starting in 2023 and then every 5 years; with full reassessment in 20 years.
- Code Update - Garrett provided an update on projects from March 2022-June 2022.
 - West End/District III - Fort Ward, Minnie Howard, ParcView II, Upland Park, 1321 Pegram Street.
 - Central/District II - 2525 Mt Vernon (flagged for potential remnants of horse and car race track), Oakville Triangle, 635 Upland Place, 2712 Duke Street.
 - Old Town/District I - Samuel Madden Homes, the Aspire development on First Street (location of former glass factory), other projects are ongoing and no new updates.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, July 20, at the Lloyd House.