

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES: July 20, 2022
LLOYD HOUSE, 7 P.M.
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
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of
Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)
Representative
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation Representative

Visitors/Public:

None

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Call to Order

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, June 15 meeting minutes. Paula Whitacre moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Esther White seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report – Ivy Whitlatch

Membership:

- Jake Hoogland, Member at Large, officially resigned. Ivy encouraged AAC to share vacancy notice widely.
- Ivy sent letters to black history/cultural organizations sharing the vacancy on the AAC for one member of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or an equivalent organization. There has been interest from the African American Hall of Fame.
- Eleanor reached out directly to Alexandria Historical Society to let them know of the vacancy for their organization due to Chris Warren's resignation.
- Dylan Colligan's term is up in September, but he is eligible to serve another term.
- AAC members discussed ways to diversify outreach/announcement when there is a vacancy.

Hybrid meeting policy: The City will provide more information in September on this policy, as the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted a bill that limits boards and commissions to two or 25% of meetings per calendar year to be virtual. The AAC expects to discuss this further at the September meeting.

Reminder: Your attendance at AAC meetings is mandatory as part of your appointment. For an excused absence, please call Alexandria Archaeology at 703.746.4399 or email eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov ahead of time.

AAC Annual Report due August 31: AAC members shared highlights of the Commission's work that could be put into the Annual Report. Ivy and Eleanor will work together to finalize and submit to the City by the deadline.

AAC Representation Reports

HARC Update - Ivy Whitlatch. Ivy shared that HARC is advocating to the Board of Architecture Review for lowering the height on the Madden Housing redevelopment designs since the project is within the Parker Gray Historic District.

Waterfront Updates: Waterfront Commission – Esther White. No meeting in July so no report.

African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam

- The content for the website is finalized with the story map content (mobile version of virtual tour) out for comment now
- Committee hopes to have both finalized by end of August and share via a public announcement sometime in the fall

Samuel Madden Redevelopment – Seth Tinkham. No report.

Torpedo Factory Stakeholders Committee Representation – Ivy Whitlatch. Ivy submitted her application to be on this committee as a representative of AAC. Application period is open until the end of July.

Ben Brenman Awards Committee

The AAC received one nomination from the public. The Awards Committee members (Paula, Liz, and Nick) shared a summary of the nomination with the AAC along with its recommendations and led a discussion fielding other nominations from AAC members.

Ralph motioned to move ahead with one of the nominations: EYA, LLC, the MAC Lab and AECOM. Ann Grier seconded. Motion passed.

Break Out Sessions (15 minutes) and Committee Reports

Awards Committee : (Dylan Colligan, Nick Dienna, Liz Vehmeyer, Paula Whitacre). Nick will draft description and eligibility for a new AAC award to go along with the Ben Brenman Award.

50th Anniversary of AAC (Rebecca Doser, Ivy Whitlatch). Ivy and Rebecca will look for state contacts to get state recognition.

African American Initiatives (Ted Pulliam, Paula Whitacre, Esther White). Group discussed how AAC can support the City's work on Douglass Cemetery restoration/flood mitigation funded by State grant of \$500,000.

Museum (Dick Owens, Ralph Rosenbaum). Dylan joined Ralph due to Dick's absence. Group considered Backyard Archaeology draft content for Alex311.

Waterfront (Ann Greer, Seth Tinkham, Esther White). Group considered ideas for the City owned parking spots next to Mai Tai restaurant, as well as suggested that the AAC send a

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congratulatory letter to the Providence Foundation on receiving a state grant for constructing the John Warner Maritime Heritage Center at the Tall Ship Providence.

Commissioner Reports

- FOAA Update - Dick Owens. Not present to report
- Visit Alexandria - Rebecca Doser. Summer events coming up include the August 13 Sidewalk Sale and summer Restaurant Week in August
- Alexandria Association - Ted Pulliam. No report
- Alexandria Historical Society – Vacant. Not present to report
- Historic Alexandria Foundation - Seth Tinkham. Not present to report
- Business Community - Dylan Colligan. No report
- Planning District Updates
 - Ivy Whitlatch- I - no report
 - Esther White - II - no report
 - Paula Whitacre -III - no report

Staff Reports – Eleanor Breen

Social Media and Events Update

- Eleanor shared that there has been a huge upswing in in-person museum visitation - up 200%, with virtual visitation is up, too.
- Alexandria Archaeology is in the midst of hosting its Archaeology Summer Camp at Shuter's Hill.
- Eleanor recapped Alexandria Archaeology's participation in the Annual Day of Archaeology, hosted by Archaeology in the Community and held at Dumbarton House in Washington, D.C.
- Eleanor shared the City's plans for celebrating Archaeology Month in October.

August AAC Meeting

Esther White motioned to cancel the August meeting. Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, September 21 at the Lloyd House.