

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES: September 21, 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) - by phone
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or an equivalent organization
John Oldfield, 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 - by phone
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Dylan Colligan, Business Community

Visitors/Public:

Scott Vierick

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Call to Order

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, July 20 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Esther White seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report – Ivy Whitlatch

- Membership
 - Ivy welcomed new AAC members, Michael Johnson and John Oldfield, as well as Scott Vierick, as a public guest. AAC will soon be 100% complete, with the expectation of Scott Vierick joining officially next month as representative of Alexandria Historical Society. Roundtable introductions were done.
- Annual Report
 - Ivy submitted the Annual Report to the City by deadline. AAC members should be proud of everything the Commission did this past year.
 - If you have any feedback on how to compile/contents of the annual report, let Eleanor know.
- Boards and Commissions Training on Electronic Participation Policy
 - Electronic Participation Policy, option for up to two non-consecutive meetings a year can be held virtually.
 - As per instruction from the State legislature, AAC needed to vote on adopting this policy. A vote to not adopt the policy meant all AAC meetings would be held in person.

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- The AAC discussed the policy. Ann Greer motioned to accept the policy as written; Ralph seconded. Motion passed.
- 2023 Legislative Package
- The City prepares legislative proposals/needs for the State Legislature annually. – Sarah Taylor (Assistant City Manager and Legislative Director) asked all City Commissions to submit feedback and proposed legislation.
- Alexandria Archeology doesn't have anything to submit at this time, but AAC can discuss more at the October meeting, if necessary, since submissions are not due until December.
- Budget Letter
- This is the City manager's annual request to Boards and Commissions to submit anything needed for funding and voice input on City funding priorities. Due November 5. Ivy reminded the AAC of this and plans on discussing more next month.
- Slate for Elections, Nominations Committee
- AAC elections are normally held in September, but since the August meeting was canceled, the schedule is shifted back a month. The creation of a nominating committee was discussed and will be finalized before the October meeting, along with a slate of nominees for the three AAC elected positions.
- Updated Roster
- Currently one vacancy, representation from the Alexandria Historical Society (AHS). AHS has voted on Scott as their representative and he has submitted an application to City Council.
- Ivy noted there is a need to come up with a system/standard procedure to track AAC's terms and how to re-apply in a timely manner (at least a month before term ends). Ivy will work with Jennifer Barker in Alexandria Archaeology on a tracking system.

AAC Representation Reports

- HARC Update - Ivy - HARC closely following Samuel Madden Redevelopment, too, especially the height issues of the new design in relation to the historic district. HARC continues to rethink its composition of membership.
- Waterfront Updates
- Waterfront Commission – Esther White
- Esther shared updates on the 1825 sf property/open lot behind Mai Thai Restaurant: City Council voted it is surplus property and now the City is exploring whether to sell or retain in some manner; Esther spoke up about cultural/history resources being taken into account; City might come up with a Request for Proposal for the site, and one suggestion was to ask for Expressions of Interest.
- Esther shared updates on the planning for the John Warner Maritime Center/Providence Pier and Visitor Center-the City will put together a task force to assist with planning.
- African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam
- Story map for the southern portion of the Trail is almost finished. The Committee may produce a brochure. The Committee will look to February for a launch on site/in person of the southern portion.
- Samuel Madden Redevelopment – Seth Tinkham
- Seth attended a Section 106 Compliance meeting last week. Seth's concerns were that mitigation efforts being proposed are very basic and not looking at how the replacement

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buildings fit into the existing Historic District as a whole. Seth asked the AAC what it would want/like to see in any mitigation measures.

- Three contributing resources to the Historic District will be gone due to this redevelopment. Do we want to see similar design features incorporated? What do we want represented in the replacement buildings? Colonial revival housing development that will be lost - topics represented in mitigation? Architecture of Samuel Madden homes also designed other Alexandria structures (Alexandria City High School, Hospital, and at least one church)
- Eleanor provided some more background on the redevelopment project and the federal government undertaking/Section 106 compliance intersection.
- AAC discussed Seth's questions and provided the following ideas:
 - Any design suggestions are better under HARC's purview than AAC's.
 - Propose a fund for research on African American history
 - Idea of scholarship for Alexandria residents going into architecture through Scholarship Fund for Alexandria
- Public art installation incorporated into redevelopment's design/landscape
- Torpedo Factory Stakeholders Committee Representation – Ivy Whitlatch
- There are 21 members in the stakeholders group, representing a wide range of organizations/individuals. Eleanor sent a link to a recording of its first meeting to the AAC for viewing. While the Torpedo Factory is expected to remain a City property, the City is looking for input from stakeholders on its future.
- Ivy recapped the Stakeholders Committee meeting, including her noting Alexandria Archaeology and AAC's relationship to the building and shared that there are four more meetings scheduled this fall.
- AAC discussed the archaeology museum's space and its future needs, including perhaps space outside of the Torpedo Factory. Ivy reminded the AAC that the procurement for a waterfront museum feasibility study is still in process but that study could explore other space/locations.

Ben Brenman Awards

- October 11th at 7 p.m. ET - City Council meeting will do the official proclamation announcing the awardees
- Notification - Eleanor reached out to the awardees.
- Eleanor will also alert the other nominee who was not chosen.
- AAC discussed finding a date to construct the shadow boxes/Awards
- Paula, Dylan, and Nick volunteered to make them this year.
- Reception to follow at Lloyd House after the City Council meeting. Eleanor invited Ben Brenman's son and daughter to the City Council and reception.

Break Out Sessions (15 minutes) and Committee Reports

- Awards Committee (Dylan Colligan, Nick Dienna, Liz Vehmeyer, Paula Whitacre)
- Nick wrote up a description for the Del Pepper Award.
- Ivy would like to give the first Award to Del Pepper on Oct. 11 after Ben Brenman. Need to reach out to Del and to the Mayor.
- Discussion around other times we could give it to Del if not at the Oct. 11 Council meeting - Annual Volunteer Party in winter? Dick will ask FOAA if we can do it during the Volunteer Party.

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- 50th Anniversary (Rebecca Doser, Ivy Whitlatch)
- Nothing discussed at this time
- African American Initiatives (Ted Pulliam, Paula Whitacre, Esther White)
- Nothing discussed at this time
- Museum (Dick Owens, Ralph Rosenbaum)
- Nothing discussed at this time
- Waterfront (Ann Greer, Seth Tinkham)
- Nothing discussed at this time
- Ivy asked the new members which committee they would like to join:
- Michael and Scott opted for the Museum committee
- John chose the Waterfront committee

Commissioner Reports

- FOAA Update
 - Dick Owens - Dick shared that FOAA's annual meeting was held at O'Connell's Pub in August. New officers were elected. Dick will continue as Treasurer. FOAA was recently a beneficiary of an Estate and is currently exploring financial management options for it.
- Visit Alexandria
 - Rebecca Doser - She shared that the City is planning for holiday related events for the rest of the calendar year.
- Alexandria Association
 - Ted Pulliam - Ted noted that the Alexandria Association is hosting a walking tour on Sept. 29 on the history of Old Town at 3 pm; \$15/person.
- Alexandria Historical Society
 - Scott Verick - Scott shared info about the speakers series at the Lyceum. The Alexandria Historical Society is currently working on building its social media accounts.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation
 - Seth Tinkham - Nothing to report
- Business Community
 - No report.
- Planning District Updates
 - Paula Whitacre and Michael Johnson are going to Montgomery, Alabama on October 6 as part of the City's organized pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Staff Reports – Eleanor

- Code Update
 - No report. Will report during the October meeting.
- Social Media and Events Update
 - Reminder that October is Archaeology Month.
 - “SeeWorthy” public archaeology event at Ben Brenman Park is on Saturday, October 1. Please sign up to volunteer with Emma Richardson.
 - Ben Brenman Awards Ceremony during City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 11. Reception to follow at Lloyd House.
 - New public art in Old Town/Waterfront Park will be installed Spring 2023. Artist Nina Cook inspired by Alexandria's ships and the cargo they carried (humans and goods). Esther

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encouraged the AAC to think about how it can leverage that public art installation and its meaning.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, October 19 at the Lloyd House.

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