

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
JOINT
FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING
MINUTES: APRIL 19, 2023
ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER, 7 P.M.
801 SOUTH PAYNE STREET, ROOM 28**

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair)
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage or
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
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical
Society Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large
(Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative

FOAA Board Members:

Thomas Macia, FOAA President
Charlotte Spinner, FOAA Secretary
Richard (Dick) Owens, FOAA
Treasurer/AAC FOAA Rep
Lori Arbuckle
Linda Lovell

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist
Tatiana Niculescu, Archaeologist,
OHA/Archaeology

Call to Order

After a tour of the Archaeology Curation and Storage Facility at the Archives & Records Center, led by Tatiana Niculescu and Eleanor Breen, Ivy Whitlatch called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Wednesday, March 15 minutes were reviewed. Ann Greer motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Scott Vierick seconded. Motion approved.

AAC Chair report - Ivy:

- Eleanor Breen will facilitate setting up a regular meeting day for the AAC 50th Anniversary subcommittee. Subcommittee members are Ann, Rebecca Doser, Ivy, and Scott. Ivy invited FOAA members to be part of AAC's 50th anniversary planning. AAC is the oldest archaeological commission in country. This anniversary coincides with the United States of America's 250th and Alexandria's 275th anniversaries.
- Discussed finding out what other Alexandria City Commissions want to do, e.g. HARC.

Report from Tom Macia, FOAA President

- FOAA's membership is about 40 members.
- The Board has continued to meet via Zoom during COVID.
- FOAA received a generous gift from the estate of Kathleen Kelly and has set up an investment fund; therefore, FOAA can double its gift to Alexandria Archaeology this year and provide funding for two or three interns.
- FOAA will organize a live trivia night at a commercial location, around June 20, and will likely resume Alexandria After Dark events.
- FOAA is working on a proposal to undertake an art contest for Alexandria artists and exhibition and to generate public interest, aiming for Virginia Archaeology Month in October 2023.
- FOAA rethinking Washington Day parade (poor turnout).
- FOAA Volunteer Appreciation Party 2023
 - AAC wants to introduce the Del Pepper Award. Eleanor suggested the party will be in June to coincide with opening of new Alexandria Archaeology Museum exhibit; firm date of new installation is coming soon, good progress being made.
 - Need to check with Del Pepper's schedule.

HARC update (Ivy):

- HARC met Tuesday, April 18.
- HARC continues to focus on realigning the composition of members.

Waterfront Commission Report (Esther White):

- From the March meeting, the Old Town Business Improvement Service District (BISD) purpose is to improve both the business district and tourism; possible opportunities for AAC to work with BISD exist.
- Seth Tinkham volunteered to share his research on parking in Old Town with BISD.
- From the Tuesday, April 18 meeting: the President and CEO of Tall Ship Providence gave an update on the John Warner Maritime Heritage Center at the foot of Prince Street.

Heritage Trail (Ted Pulliam) – no report

Samuel Madden Redevelopment project report (Seth): no report

Commissioner Reports:

Alexandria Association (Ted) – Al Cox gave a talk about the restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. For OHA for preservation month, he will do another presentation on Tuesday, May 9, at The Lyceum.

Alexandria Historical Society (Scott) – Next Wednesday, April 26, at The Lyceum, there will be an awards ceremony honoring high school students and other outstanding award recipients. and a speaker from the National Trust.

Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization (Michael Johnson)

- Michael gave a presentation on African American cemeteries recently at the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) meeting.

- OHA and the Friends of Douglass Cemetery are planning to start cleaning headstones in Douglass cemetery.
- Reminder: Tour of the cemetery in June for AAC.

Historic Alexandria Foundation (Seth)

- He flagged that VA Dept of Historic Resources received a \$200,000 grant from the National Park Service for the Virginia Maritime Trade Heritage Preservation Subgrant Program.

Planning District Updates

- Planning District III (Paula Whitacre): The City continues to work with the community on the relocation of the playground.
- Planning District 1: Ivy asked if the Archaeology signs are driving traffic to Archaeology Museum? Unclear – QR code on sign will indicate traffic.

Members at Large – no reports

Archaeology Update:

1) Alexandria Archaeology has produced a draft “Ships Report” (Managing Alexandria’s Derelict Merchant Fleet), with a report completion date scheduled for the end of June (fiscal year). John Oldfield will provide a review. Alexandria Archaeology asked that the AAC review the report for readability for both archaeologists and the general public; this will be the core foundation document for the ships project.

2) Alexandria Archaeology has produced a draft spatial index for the Alexandria Archaeological bibliography, tentatively called the Alexandria Report Finder (ARF).

3) Alexandria Archaeology is making progress on new exhibit cases for the museum – expected to dramatically change the space with additional information, especially about lives of enslaved people; new photos about how program has changed over time. Eleanor hopes the main takeaway will be better understanding of community/urban archaeology program.

Chair Ivy Whitlatch called the meeting to a close at 9:03 p.m.