

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: September 20, 2023
LLOYD HOUSE, 7 P.M.
220 N. WASHINGTON STREET

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large
(Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
John Oldfield, Member at Large
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:

Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair)
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative
Michael Johnson, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage or
equivalent organization
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (FOAA) Representative

Visitors/Public:

Tom Macia, Friend of Alexandria
Archaeology (FOAA) President

City Staff:

Garrett Fesler, Archaeologist

Call to Order

- Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, July 19 meeting minutes. Liz Vehmeyer proposed amendments. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Ann Greer seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report – Ivy Whitlatch

- Presentation of Slate by Nominations Committee and Election of Officers - Ted Pulliam
 - Nominations - Chair: Ivy Whitlatch; Vice Chair: Esther White; Secretary: John Oldfield
 - Motion to elect all nominations made by Seth Tinkham; seconded by Scott Vierick.Motion passes. Congrats to all officers.
- Ben Brenman Awards
 - AAC discussed the nominations for this year's Award. Ralph motioned to make an award to one of the nominations; Ted seconded. Motion passed.
 - Schedule date to assemble the award (and advertise publicly if three or more members contribute) - Awards Committee and Ivy decided to meet on Friday, September 29th to make the

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physical awards. AAC will also do a certificate for each award recipient, with a copy of the City Proclamation.

- Draft Proclamation - Paula Whitacre worked on this and will finalize with Eleanor Breen and Ivy.
- Draft Press Release - Eleanor will work on this.
- Draft and send recipient award letters - Jennifer Barker, Office of Historic Alexandria, will do this.
- Award Presentation Date at City Council Meeting - Tuesday, October 10 at 7 p.m.

AAC Representation Reports

- HARC Update – Ivy Whitlatch
- HARC held its elections at last night’s meeting.
- On Tuesday, September 12, HARC received City approval to change ordinance to the new composition of HARC members.
- HARC held a retreat in August and at last night’s meeting, presented a strategic plan that came out of that retreat. Plan includes redoing their mission statement.
- Ivy drafted a short joint letter to the City Council re: storage issues of both Commissions and the City Archives. HARC will edit the letter in October. Ivy will bring HARC's letter to AAC in October to get AAC approval and then include it in the annual budget proposal letter to the City Manager in November.
- HARC decided not to pursue nominating the Wilkes Street cemetery complexes to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The Office of Historic Alexandria doesn't have capacity right now to pursue that effort either. Ivy asked if AAC would like to still support this possible nomination?
 - AAC discussed what that would look like if AAC did pursue this and recognized that some exploratory/feelers with property owners would be needed.
 - Seth saw pursuing this nomination as fitting well with the AAC mission and purpose.
 - Garrett suggested that an exploratory committee can help build the pieces; then hand off the pieces to a hired professional. What is the benefit of doing this? Are these cemeteries threatened by development? Explore what are the threats and how can we mitigate them (will a National Register Historic District help here?)
 - Motion to set up an exploratory group made by Ralph; Scott seconded. Motion passed. Will have this on agenda next month.
- Waterfront Updates
- Waterfront Commission – Esther White - no report
- African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam
- The Trail Committee met yesterday and discussed its involvement in the upcoming Alexandria Forum on Friday, October 20.
- Samuel Madden Redevelopment – Seth Tinkham - no report

Break Out Sessions (15 minutes) and Committee Reports

- Awards Committee (Nick Dienna, Liz Vehmeyer, Paula Whitacre)
- Will meet before October to make the physical Ben Brenman Awards.
- 50th Anniversary (Dylan Colligan, Rebecca Doser, Ivy Whitlatch, Ann Greer, Scott Vierick)
- Next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 at Lloyd House.

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- African American Initiatives (Ted Pulliam, Paula Whitacre, Esther White)
- Museum (Dick Owens, Ralph Rosenbaum, Michael Johnson, Scott Vierick)
- Waterfront (Ann Greer, Seth Tinkham, John Oldfield)

Commissioner Reports

- FOAA Update (Richard Owens)
- Tom Macia reported in Dick's absence.
- FOAA is helping to promote Archaeology Month programming in October.
- FOAA is collaborating with Alexandria Historical Society on its 50th Anniversary.
- FOAA will have a float at the next George Washington Birthday Parade in February 2024.
- FOAA is looking into creating a scholarship for Alexandria High School students.
- Visit Alexandria (Rebecca Doser) - no report
- Alexandria Association (Ted Pulliam)
- Next lecture event is on Monday, October 16: Julien Icher, "Marquis de Lafayette's 1824 Visit"
- Alexandria Historical Society (Scott Vierick)
- Tatiana Niculescu, Ph.D., Alexandria Archaeology, is giving the September lecture on Friday, September 27 at 7 p.m. at the Lyceum.
- The next issue of the *Alexandria Chronicle* magazine will feature a piece by Ben Skolnik, Ph.D., Alexandria Archaeology.
- The Alexandria Historical Society's 50th anniversary is next year, so planning has started. Expect lectures and histories of preservation in Alexandria to be part of the celebrations. Scott is on the 50th committee for AHS, too. Will highlight connections among all the commissions and groups that were promoting history and preservation around 50 years ago.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization (Michael Johnson) - no report
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (Seth Tinkham) - no report
- Business Community (Dylan Colligan)
- Business Improvement Service District initiative has stalled; No movement over the past 3 months.
- Planning District Updates (Paula Whitacre, Esther White, Ivy Whitlatch) - no report
- Members at Large (Nick Dienna, Ann Greer, Liz Vehmeyer) - no report

Staff Reports – Garrett Fesler

- Code Updates - June-September 2023
- Alexandria Archaeology reviewed 159 development projects, 10 will be required to go through a full review process with an archaeologist consultant.
- West End: Fort Ward will have fencing built around burial areas in the park. Garrett is providing technical advice on this and Archaeology staff will monitor during ground disturbance. City collaborated with the descendant community.
- Central District: Not much action. City and consultants are finalizing the report on the Simpson Park project.
- Old Town: Updates provided on the 1022 Pendleton Street project, with City receiving permission to do some archaeological testing on the vacant lots next door; South Lee Street private property project where owner agreed to hire an archaeological consultant prior to putting

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on an addition with basement and recovered a brick lined well in yard; Interpretive signage installed for 1300-1312 King Street project.

- Alexandria Archaeology is now offering to do historic interpretation signage content, design, and installation for a fixed fee of \$7,000/sign.
- Archaeology Updates
- Alexandria Archaeology now has an electric van and participated in the City's "Tons of Trucks" event on September 9th.
- Side Scan Sonar at Ben Brenman Pond occurred early this month. The timbers were found to be stable and remain in the originally placed locations.
- Social Media and Events Update
- October is Virginia Archaeology Month!
- Archaeology along the Waterfront at Robinson Landing, Saturday, October 14
- Alexandria Forum, Friday, October 20- at The Lyceum

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.
- The next AAC Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, October 18 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.