

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting**  
Minutes of November 15, 2023

**Members Present:**

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)  
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)  
John Oldfield, Member at Large, (Secretary)  
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large  
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria  
Archaeology (FOAA) Representative  
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large  
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical  
Society Representative  
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

**Members Excused:**

Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community  
Representative  
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative  
Ann Greer, Member at Large

Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation  
of Black Heritage or Equivalent  
Organization Representative  
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association  
Representative  
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation  
Representative

**Visitors:**

Jason Roberts (he has submitted his application  
to join AAC)  
Doug Frye

**City Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:31 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order. AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, October 18 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes. Scott Vierick seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

**Chair Report:**

- Michael Johnson's position on AAC is now open; he is a City of Alexandria employee and cannot be on the AAC.
- **Budget Letter** - Of note, if the City does not find a "suitable storage or display facility" for the conserved ship timbers by December 2025 (anticipated date), the City will have to pay approximately \$5,000/month for storage at Texas A&M.
- **Joint Storage Letter** - AAC, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC), and Alexandria Archives all have storage requirements that need to be addressed.

**AAC Membership Reports:**

- **HARC update:** No report, as the monthly HARC meeting has not yet occurred.
- **Waterfront Committee:** No report, as the Waterfront Commission will meet only after Thanksgiving.
- **African American Heritage Trail Committee:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16. Ten interpretive signs will be installed in December 2023.
- **Samuel Madden Redevelopment:** Seth Tinkham reported (in writing): AAC came up with the idea for a scholarship to mitigate the loss of the Samuel Madden homes/public housing. The Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority has elected to implement this measure and there is \$20,000 in seed funding for the scholarships. The process will be managed by an independent nonprofit. AAC will keep this on its agenda, as AAC is a signing party to the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Develop and Approve 2024 Calendar**

- Ivy asked how should AAC decisions be taken – at AAC level or at subcommittee level? Is there a better way to work on major projects like the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAC, or the Cemeteries Nomination to National Register of Historic Places? Perhaps these two big projects could be discussed by subcommittees at formal AAC meetings, with brief reports to the whole AAC? Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept this way of reformatting AAC meetings for the next six months to deal with these two major projects. Paula Whitacre seconded. Motion passed.
- 2024 calendar: Esther White moved to cancel the August 2024 meeting. Scott Vierick seconded. Motion passed.
- The June 2024 AAC meeting was moved to Wednesday, June 12, accommodating Juneteenth, a City holiday, on Wednesday, June 19.

**Eleanor staff report:**

- Installation of new African American Heritage Trail signs is anticipated in December.
- Alexandria Archaeology will soon launch Alexandria Archaeology Report Finder (AARF), a new online interactive map. They are also pulling together an interactive map of oral histories done in the city, and an interactive map of all of the historic interpretation signage in the city.
- Board of Architectural Review (BAR)/Freedom House hearing: One recommendation is to take the façade back to the period of significance – this would require fixing doors, roofs, and window, and would need BAR approval. It would also need State approval because of an easement.
- Abby Schreiber, the City’s temporary Waterfront Historian, is writing a documentary study to help waterfront flood mitigation. Her contract has been extended another six months.
- At the Alexandria Forum, it was announced that at Robinson Landing there will be a display of the four ship (hull remnant) scale models - in the former sales office.
- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology will hold its annual Winter/Holiday meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at O’Connell’s Pub. All are invited.

Adjournment: 8:22 p.m.