

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of January 17, 2024

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association Representative

Jason Roberts, Member at Large
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:

Visitors:

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:02 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order. AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, November 15, 2023, meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as written. Scott Vierick seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Welcome to new AAC member Jason Roberts.
- Michael Johnson can complete his AAC term on AAC but cannot re-apply due to his employment by the City of Alexandria.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **HARC:** No update. The Tuesday, January 16 HARC meeting was cancelled due to no quorum.
- **Waterfront Committee:** No report. Note Saturday, January 27 Community Walking Tour for the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project featuring Matt Landes, Project Implementation Portfolio Manager, of the City of Alexandria.
- **African American Heritage Trail Committee:** 1) The Committee will soon submit its application to The Toni Morrison Society's *Bench by the Road* project; and 2) the ribbon cutting for the new interpretive signs for the Trail will take place on Saturday, February 10 at 11 a.m. at the new Fishtown sign in Founders Park.
- **Samuel Madden Redevelopment:** Seth Tinkham reported and proposed to remove this from standing agenda.

Break Out Sessions (45 minutes) and Committee Reports (15 minutes)

Cemetery Committee (Seth Tinkham leads; members are Ralph Rosenbaum, Michael Johnson, Dick Owens, Paula Whitacre, Jason Roberts, Nick Dienna, Eleanor Breen)

- Two priorities were discussed: 1) What is the National Register of Historic Places? 2) What is currently in motion? (A couple of faith communities are also thinking about starting a National Register nomination.)

- There are three products to start on: Develop a timeline, a process map, and a one pager on the benefits.

50th AAC Anniversary Committee (Rebecca Doser leads; members are Dylan Colligan, John Oldfield, Ivy Whitlatch, Ann Greer, Scott Vierick, Ted Pulliam, Esther White)

- Action items:
 - o Ivy and Esther will develop Top Ten AAC achievements, to help with national media pitch for February 2024. The media pitch will target various audiences, historical and professional publications, and broader communities.
 - o Scott will begin looking for former AAC members for the 2025 event.

Commissioner Reports

- FOAA Update (Dick Owens): 1) Plans are underway for the George Washington Birthday Parade; the FOAA float will be assembled Saturday, February 10. 2) FOAA's Wine and Design event will take place on Thursday, March 21. 3) FOAA has established the Kathleen Kelly Memorial Scholarship through the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.
- Visit Alexandria (Rebecca Doser): shared with members that there is new interpretive signage for the African American Heritage Trail, and a display: *The Buried Ships of Robinson Landing*
- Alexandria Association (Ted Pulliam): no report
- Alexandria Historical Society (Scott Vierick): AHS turns 50 this year and there will be a lot of activity; note recent article by Alexandria Archaeology's Ben Skolnik on Civil War photographs and an article on the value of a history degree by Scott; there will be an AHS lecture at The Lyceum in March; nominations for Alexandria History Awards are open until end January 2024. There is an ongoing membership drive for the 50th anniversary of AHS.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization (Michael Johnson): An advisory group has been formed for Douglass Cemetery, and a public meeting was held before Christmas.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (Seth Tinkham): no report
- Business Community (Dylan Colligan): no report
- Planning District Updates (Paula Whitacre, Esther White, Ivy Whitlatch)
 - o Ivy Whitlatch: She continues to monitor the 301 N Fairfax development; there will be a book launch on Saturday, February 3 for *African American Emancipation in an Occupied City*
- Members at Large (Nick Dienna, Ann Greer, John Oldfield, Jason Roberts, Ralph Rosenbaum): no report

Staff Reports – Eleanor Breen

- Code Update: through December 2023 Alexandria Archaeology staff reviewed 163 projects of which four will be monitored by Alexandria Archaeology and 11 will require a consultant or an interpretive sign.
- Collections Updates: no new collections, but staff are in the planning phase for reanalysis of collections about the domestic slave trade; if this moves ahead, those artifacts will be added to Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery; *The Buried Ships of Robinson Landing* is under preparation for opening in spring 2024; the Alexandria Archaeology Report Finder was launched; new schools programs on archaeology are in high demand; Abby Schreiber has finished her work *Alexandria's Historic Waterfront: A StoryMap* and associated report.
- Potomac Yard proposed arena project: The project would need a preliminary archaeological assessment; the hypothesis is that everything in the area is so disturbed by the railway that there will be nothing of archaeological interest; however, there was a plantation there at one point, and the canal went through there; some work was done at Oakville Triangle.

- Social Media and Events Update: the Annual Volunteer Party will be held Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

Adjournment: Paula moved that the meeting adjourn; Seth seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Lloyd House.