

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2024

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative (Acting Secretary)
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Ann Greer, 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
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)
Jason Roberts, Member at Large
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist
Abby Schreiber, Research Historian, City of Alexandria

At 7:03 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order. AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, February 21, meeting minutes. Scott Vierick asked to make a correction regarding the section on his Alexandria Historical Society report. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ann Greer seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Staff Reports: – Abby Schreiber

- Abby discussed her current project for the city, working with the Department of Project Implementation (DPI) to update the 2010 Alexandria Waterfront History Plan.
- On Tuesday, March 26, there will be a Waterfront Flood Mitigation Open House at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Abby will be there to discuss her work and solicit ideas and feedback.

Chair Report:

- Ivy requested the AAC form a committee to prepare for the Ben Brenman Award. Committee formed consisting of Nick Dienna, Paula Whitacre, Dick Owens, and Ivy Whitlatch. The AAC decided that John Oldfield will chair the committee.
- The City Manager's proposed budget includes additional funds to continue the work of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.
- Ivy and Eleanor Breen will begin working on the next budget letter and will present it to the AAC in April.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **HARC:** AAC was represented at the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 19. Abby gave a well-received presentation on her research. HARC currently has six vacancies that they are working to fill.
- **African American Heritage Trail Committee:** No updates.
- **Waterfront:** Ivy read a message from Esther regarding plans to remove storage tanks as an option from the flood mitigation plan.

Break Out Sessions (30 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, and Eleanor Breen)

- The Committee discussed plans for the upcoming June walkabout, including who would attend. In conversation with the rest of the AAC, it was decided to limit this walkabout to AAC members and Aubrey Von Lindern from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
- It was agreed that stakeholder and public outreach should commence in the near future so that the feelings, ideas, and insights of all relevant parties could be understood and accounted for.

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

- The group finalized a list for inclusion in the Top Ten Achievements of the AAC, discussed plans for an article about the AAC, and made plans to conduct oral histories with former City Archaeologists.

Commissioner Reports

Due to time constraints, the AAC agreed to limit the reports to any time-sensitive announcements.

- Alexandria Historical Society (Scott Vierick): Ted Pulliam will present “*True Tales of Old Alexandria*” at the Alexandria Historical Society on Wednesday, March 27.

Staff Reports: – Eleanor Breen

- Eleanor summarized her discussion with the conservator at Texas A&M. The estimated delivery day of the ship from the Hotel Indigo site is projected to be in March/April 2026. Alexandria Archaeology staff will begin working on a plan for offsite storage this summer.
- The new exhibit about the ships discovered at the waterfront will open at Robinson Terminal on Saturday, April 6.
- A Mining Completion Open House will be held on Saturday, April 13, to celebrate the work of the tunneling project, mandated by the state to reduce combined sewage outflow.
- Eleanor and Tatiana Niculescu, Alexandria Archaeologist, will be presenting at the Society for American Archaeology Conference.
- Alexandria Archaeology is currently working on a project relating to two historic wells at The Heritage (apartment community in Old Town).

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 17, at Lloyd House.