

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of May 15, 2024

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
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
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical
Society Representative (Acting Secretary)

Members Excused:

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 (Secretary)
Jason Roberts, Member at Large

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:01 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order. AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, April 17, meeting minutes. Dick Owens moved to accept the minutes; Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Ivy discussed the Ben Brenman Award and noted that the call for nominations will go out next week.
- The seat on AAC for a Visit Alexandria representative is currently vacant. Ivy, representing AAC, will attend their June meeting to discuss the Commission.
- AAC continues to attend the meetings of the Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholders Task Force to push for the interests of archaeology, the museum, and related opportunities.
- AAC has been formally nominated for Commission of the Year and is also under consideration for a Preservation Virginia award.
- AAC discussed having an advocacy/advisory committee to work with City Council.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC):** No updates as HARC will meet next week.
- **African American Heritage Trail Committee:** No updates.
- **Waterfront:** No updates as the Waterfront Commission will also meet next week.
- **Murray-Dick-Fawcett House:** Attendees of the stakeholder meeting for the Comprehensive Plan project discussed the conversations about the future of the structure. The group noted the importance of including archaeology in future conversations about the site.

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)

- Committee did not have a formal meeting this month.

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

- An abbreviated meeting was held since several members were absent.
- Group decided to approach FOAA about holding a joint volunteers party and AAC 50th anniversary party in January or February 2025 at the Torpedo Factory. The group will invite former AAC commissioners.
- Ivy is working on getting a statewide proclamation to recognize AAC's 50th anniversary.
- Scott is coordinating with former Alexandria City Archeologists for oral histories.

Commissioner Reports

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology Update (Richard Owens): No update.
- Visit Alexandria (position vacant): No report.
- Alexandria Association (Ted Pulliam): No report.
- Alexandria Historical Society (Scott Vierick): Nick Redding will present "*Preserving the Past to Build a Better Future: The Work of Preservation Maryland to Save Key Resources, Invest in Historic Trades, and Promote Livable and Affordable Communities*" at the Alexandria Historical Society on Wednesday, May 22.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization (Michael Johnson): No report.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (Seth Tinkham): HAF will be announcing the next round of grant winners soon. HAF is also sponsoring a scholarship to promote the study of history. The organization's Spring Garden Party and Annual Meeting is next month.
- Business Community (Dylan Colligan): No report.
- Planning District Updates: No report.
- Members at Large: No report.

Staff Reports: – Eleanor Breen

- Alexandria Archaeology will participate in the Archaeology Day event at Dumbarton House in Washington, DC on Saturday, June 1.
- The Freedmen Cemetery renewal and clean up event has been postponed to Saturday, June 8. The ten year anniversary of the memorial at the cemetery will be held in September.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, June, 12, at 6 p.m., at the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex.