

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of November 20, 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
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Ann Greer, Member at Large

Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

Members Unexcused:

Jason Roberts, Member at Large

Guests:

Kelli Kordich, FOAA Board Member
Linda Lovell, FOAA Board Member
Tom Macia, FOAA Board Member

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, September 18, meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as written; Scott Vierick seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, October 16, meeting minutes. Ralph moved to accept the minutes as written; Dick Owens seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Membership update: There are two open seats on the AAC (Member at Large and Visit Alexandria Representative). AAC meeting minutes will now reflect unexcused absences.
- There is a need for the AAC to provide a representative for the redevelopment underway at Heritage at Old Town. Esther White volunteered.
- AAC submitted its annual (FY26) budget priorities letter, with a particular focus on the upcoming need for the exhibition or storage of the conserved hull remnant from the Hotel Indigo site (expected in spring 2026).
- AAC will prepare welcome packets for all City Council Members, including the two recently elected for the first time.
- Members considered the draft 2025 AAC meeting calendar. Paula Whitacre moved to accept the calendar; Ralph seconded. Motion passed.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC):** Ivy attended the HARC meeting on Tuesday, November 19. HARC wrote a letter to the City regarding the status of the Jones Point Lighthouse. In response, the Mayor asked the National Park Service to address the situation.
- **Waterfront Updates:** Esther White attended the most recent meeting of the Waterfront Commission on Tuesday, November 19. A public meeting is scheduled for Monday, November

25, at which alternative locations for the pumphouse (part of the flood mitigation effort) will be discussed.

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, and Eleanor Breen)

- The Commonwealth of Virginia requires a [public engagement process](#) before substantive work can begin on the National Register nomination process. Eleanor Breen will inform AAC on next steps. Outreach will initially prioritize stakeholders in the city and inside the cemeteries; outreach will then take place beyond those initial stakeholders, perhaps with support from a consultant.

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

- It was decided that the AAC Advocacy Committee will work with the 50th Anniversary Committee in the near term, in part to advocate regarding the return of the hull remnant once the conservation process is complete (Spring 2026).
- Media outreach for AAC's 50th anniversary: Esther will draft a media release and circulate internally for comments. Special attention will be provided regarding the return of the hull remnant.
- Outreach is underway to Senator Mark Warner and Representative Don Beyer for joint recognition of AAC. The City of Alexandria will likely recognize AAC, as will the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Advocacy Committee: AAC will provide all City Council members an AAC packet including a letter, brochure, and AAC 2025 goals.
- Plans are underway for the AAC 50th anniversary and annual FOAA volunteer party on Friday, January 31, 2025.

Commissioner Reports

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): Tom Macia, FOAA President, provided an update.
 - o FOAA's 2024 Winter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at O'Connell's, 112 King St., Alexandria. Tom Macia will deliver a presentation on archaeology in Caen, France, Alexandria's sister city. A raffle will be held for souvenirs from Caen.
 - o FOAA awarded its Kathleen Kelly Memorial Scholarship and continues to benefit from the gift of Kathleen Kelly.
- Visit Alexandria (position vacant):
- Alexandria Association (Ted Pulliam): No report.
- Alexandria Historical Society (Scott Vierick): AHS recently hosted Dr. Benjamin Skolnik (Archaeologist, City of Alexandria) for the virtual presentation *Learning More About History through Photographs*. AHS also recently awarded its Golden Grants. AHS will be recognized by the City of Alexandria for its 50th anniversary in December and is planning two events in January 2025 to kick off its 51st year.
- 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): No report.

- Planning District Updates: No report.
- Members at Large: No report.

Staff Reports: – Eleanor Breen

- Alexandria Archaeology is actively monitoring the development of 901 North Pitt Street. Masonry from the circa 1840 Alexandria Canal is still there, and a consultant will write a resource management plan to properly preserve these remains in documents.
- Alexandria Archaeology participated actively on Saturday, November 16 at Celebrate Virginia Archaeology! in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- The annual Ship Biscuit Ornaments event will take place on Saturday, December 7 from 2-5p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 18, at 7 p.m., at the Lloyd House.