

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of February 19, 2025

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
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Gilda Marie Anroman, Member at Large
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization

Guests:

Colton Nagel
Kevin Nagel

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, January 15 meeting minutes. Ted Pulliam moved to accept the minutes as modified; Dylan Colligan seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Membership update: AAC currently has openings for one Members at Large, and efforts remain underway to fill the remaining the seat for the Visit Alexandria Representative.
- Ivy will meet soon with the City regarding the return of the conserved ship hull remnant and next steps with the National Historic Register nomination process for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex, including budget implications of both.
- The development of the AAC Work Plan for 2025 is underway.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC):** HARC has been pushing for improvements at Jones Point Lighthouse, which is in bad repair. Funding from the National Park Service has been identified.
- **Waterfront Updates:**
 - o At its most recent meeting, the Waterfront Commission discussed the development at Robinson Terminal North. The original plans called for a hotel and shops; the developer now wants residences and a restaurant. The Waterfront Commission urges the developer to make as much space as possible available to the public, and to show the historic nature of the site.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee

- If the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex gets nominated for the National Historic Register, a majority of property owners needs to approve, and all property owners need to be contacted.
- The Cemetery Committee is developing 1) a one page document about implications of being on

the National Historic Register, 2) a public engagement plan, and 3) a Preliminary Information Form for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Cemetery Committee is also considering how to write the Historic Register nomination, including potentially seeking grant funding or getting a City staff person involved, and whether letters of support will be needed.

50th AAC Anniversary Committee and Advocacy Committee

- The joint Friends of Alexandria Archaeology volunteer appreciation party and AAC 50th anniversary celebration went well and included a proclamation by Virginia State Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker to recognize the AAC's 50th anniversary.
- The Anniversary Committee's next actions include:
 - o Press release about the 50th anniversary of the AAC
 - o Writing and placing articles about the 50th anniversary
 - o Ongoing efforts to attract more visitors to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory Art Center

Advocacy Committee

- The Advocacy Committee wrote a letter to the Department of Project Implementation to express its concerns about the proper interpretation of history along the waterfront, in connection with the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project.

Commissioner Reports:

- **Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA):** The Volunteer Appreciation Party and AAC 50th anniversary party went well, as did the George Washington Day parade. FOAA is once again supporting internships for Alexandria Archaeology.
- **Visit Alexandria (position vacant):**
- **Alexandria Association:** As part of the Alexandria Association Lecture Series, on Friday, February 7, Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (Retired) spoke about "*Alexandria's Official Historic Landmarks.*"
- **Alexandria Historical Society (AHS):**
 - o Elizabeth Reese will deliver a lecture on Wednesday, February 26 entitled *Now Is the Winter of Our Lafayette: The National Tour January – March 1825*
 - o Scott Vierick also noted that nominations remain open (through Friday, February 21) for the Alexandria History Awards.
- **Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization:** No report.
- **Historic Alexandria Foundation:** No report.
- **Business Community:** The Business Improvement District effort has shut down.
- **Planning District Updates:**
 - o The Minnie Howard School Integration Sign Unveiling will take place on Saturday, March 8.
- **Members at Large:** No report.

Staff report: - Eleanor Breen

- The final public presentation of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House Comprehensive Plan will take place on Monday, February 24.
- On Tuesday, February 25, Alexandria City Council will issue a proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the AAC.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House