

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of April 16, 2025

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)
Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association Representative
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

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

Members Unexcused:

City Staff:

Garrett Fesler, City Archaeologist

At 7 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, March 19 meeting minutes. Ann Greer moved to accept the minutes as modified; Dylan Colligan seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Membership update: Welcome new member Cindy Boren.
- The Alexandria Historical Society's T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award will be given to AAC on Wednesday, May 28 (the date was moved from Wednesday, April 23).
- The nomination for AAC for the Alexandria City Council's Commission of Year Impact Award is due Sunday, May 4. AAC members are encouraged to review the draft nomination.
- The return of the conserved hull remnant from Texas A&M has been delayed. It will return to Alexandria in spring 2027.
- AAC members chose the Freedom House Museum as the location for the Wednesday, June 18 Walkabout.
- The City will publicize the nomination process for the annual Ben Brenman Award for Archaeology in May.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC):** There is some concern about funding for the Freedom House Museum restoration.
- **Waterfront Updates:** At its most recent meeting, the Waterfront Commission discussed design updates to the Waterfront Flood Mitigation project, including the design of the pump station. Pre-construction work could begin in the fall of 2026, after the 250th anniversary of the nation.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee

Welcome new members Kim Abraham and Cindy. The Committee discussed grants and student resources that might support the process of applying for the National Register of Historic Places. The

Committee's priority is the completion of the Preliminary Information Form.

50th Anniversary Committee

The Committee expressed its gratitude on behalf of AAC to the Alexandria Historical Society for the T. Michael Miller award.

Advocacy Committee

The Committee's current advocacy priority is the cemetery nomination project.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA will provide a scholarship award for a student to attend Alexandria Archaeology's annual summer camp.
- Visit Alexandria: position vacant.
- Alexandria Association: Thomas Michie will deliver a lecture on Monday, April 21 at The Lyceum entitled "*New England's French Connection: Yankee Entrepreneurs in Post-Revolutionary Paris.*"
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS):
 - o AHS congratulates AAC for winning the T. Michael Miller award.
 - o Diana Parsell will deliver a lecture, at The Lyceum on Tuesday, April 22, entitled "*From Alaska & Asia to D. C.'s Cherry Blossoms, with Gilded Age Journalist Eliza Scidmore.*"
 - o Shawn Eyer will deliver a lecture, via Zoom on Wednesday, May 7, entitled "*Lee-Fendall House Structural Survey: A Lesson in Historic Preservation.*"
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization: no report.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation: no report.
- Business Community: no report.
- Planning District Updates (Paula Whitacre, Esther White, Ivy Whitlatch): no report.
- Members at Large (Kim Abraham, Ann Greer, John Oldfield): Kim Abraham suggested Alexandria Archaeology put up signage when working on a site, especially in high foot traffic areas.

Staff report: Garrett Fesler

- Garrett briefed AAC members on the ongoing conservation of the hull remnant at Texas A&M, and the delays in the process.
- Alexandria Archaeology has been active with several recent events, including STEM Night at Mt. Vernon Community School and the Transcribe-A-Thon, an effort to transcribe Alexandria store records and letterbooks, dating from 1770-1802, to track consumer habits during that time.
- Over 500 people attended the viewing of the newly rediscovered sections of the Alexandria Canal.
- Alexandria Archaeology will also be present at the EcoCity Festival on Saturday, May 10.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.