

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting

Minutes of May 21, 2025

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)
Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
Ann Greer, Member at Large
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:

Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation
of Black Heritage (or equivalent
organization)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)

Members Unexcused:

Guests:

Peter and Karen Cerka, FOAA
Colton Nagel
Kevin Nagel

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:04 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, April 16 meeting minutes. Scott Vierick moved to accept the minutes as modified; Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- The annual “walkabout” meeting of the AAC will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m., at Ivy Hill Cemetery this year. Rain location is Lloyd House.
- AAC members will attend upcoming meetings regarding the City of Alexandria’s flood mitigation project along the waterfront, with an eye to the National Historic Preservation Act, since the project involves the federal government and historic resources.
- The August meeting of the AAC has been cancelled.
- The Ben Brenman Award nomination announcement will be published soon by the City. The public is encouraged to submit nominations.

AAC Membership Reports:

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC):** HARC continues to engage with the waterfront flood mitigation project, particularly regarding the pump station and a potential redesign. HARC is also engaged with the Torpedo Factory Arts Center regarding who will manage the center in the future. The result of this process may have implications for the storage and/or display for the conserved ship hull remnant, whose return to Alexandria is expected in 2027.
- **Waterfront Updates:** See notes above regarding the Waterfront Flood Mitigation project.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee

- Efforts are underway to meet with various constituents regarding the potential nomination of

the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places.

- The Committee is tracking the current state of cultural resource laws, the Historic Preservation Fund, and State Historic Preservation Offices.

50th Anniversary Committee and Advocacy Committee

- The Alexandria Historical Society will award its T. Michael Miller award to the AAC at an event on May 28.
- The Advocacy Committee has learned that Alexandria Archaeology does not have any outstanding federal grants.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA has provided a scholarship award for a student to attend the annual Alexandria Archaeology summer camp. Ivy encouraged AAC members to attend Summer Camp, especially Friday, June 27 for Interpretation Day.
- Visit Alexandria: position vacant
- Alexandria Association: Ted mentioned that at a recent meeting of the Old Town Civic Association, Ivy made an enthusiastic speech about the return of the conserved ship hull remnant to Alexandria. - Representative - Don Beyer, who represents Alexandria and other areas in Northern Virginia in Congress and was the meeting's main speaker, was receptive to Ivy's remarks.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS):
 - o The Alexandria Historical Society will award its T. Michael Miller award to AAC at an event on Wednesday, May 28 at The Lyceum.
 - o A Behind the Scenes Walking Tour entitled *Out and About in Old Town: Uncovering LGBTQ+ History in Alexandria* will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 29.
 - o Dr. Deborah Payne and Dr. Drew Lichtenberg will present *Theater in Colonial Virginia* at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.
- 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, Cindy Boren, Ann Greer, John Oldfield): no report

Staff report: Eleanor Breen

- Eleanor encouraged AAC members to attend the Alexandria Historical Society Awards, on Wednesday, May 28.
- The culmination of the annual Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp is on Friday, June 27 where campers invite friends, family, AAC, FOAA, and community members to see the work and learn about methods of scientific investigation at the archaeological site.
- Alexandria Archaeology is getting a new system of drawers for the museum. The new drawers will allow visitors to better study the collection in a more interactive format.
- All are invited to RiverRenew Hooffs Run Dedication Day on Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the African American Heritage Park
- All are invited to the 2025 Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 21 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery.
- A research historian has been hired for the City Hall renovation project. AAC had advocated that the City Hall renovation needs to include history.

- A state highway marker for the Colored Rosemont neighborhood was approved and will be installed. Historic Alexandria is collecting oral histories about Colored Rosemont and Alexandria Archaeology is part of the Community History Initiative.
- Tatiana Niculescu, Archaeologist/Collections Manager, and Eleanor of Alexandria Archaeology were invited by the New York State Curator of Archaeological Collections to observe and help install the conserved revolutionary era gunboat found under the World Trade Center wreckage. They will travel to the museum in June.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next AAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ivy Hill Cemetery.