

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of July 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
Raymond Eresman, 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
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation
of Black Heritage (or equivalent
organization)

Members Unexcused:

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:02 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, May 21 meeting minutes. Seth Tinkham moved to accept the minutes as modified. Dick Owens seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, June 18, meeting minutes. Esther White moved to accept the minutes as modified. Raymond Eresman seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

- Ivy and Eleanor Breen congratulated AAC on the City of Alexandria Commission of the Year award.
- AAC Annual Report – AAC gave Ivy and Eleanor carte blanche to write the annual report.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reminder: If a meeting is held or emails exchanged involving more than two AAC members, that will require public notice under FOIA.

AAC Membership Reports:

- Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC): AAC continues to engage with HARC in the conversations about the City Hall restoration project.

Ben Brenman Award:

- AAC members considered a number of candidates for the award. Ted Pullian moved to make the award to Carr Properties. Esther White seconded; motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee

- Two letters were circulated to the owners and custodians of the cemeteries in the Wilkes Street

Cemetery Complex informing them of the upcoming nomination of the Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District.

- Outreach is underway to cemetery stakeholders. The goal is to hold a meeting with all stakeholders in September, and then start writing the Preliminary Information Form, the first step in the nomination process.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA is finalizing its annual report. They will host their annual Summer Social on Thursday, August 21.
- Visit Alexandria: Efforts remain underway to fill the seat for the Visit Alexandria Representative.
- Alexandria Association: No report
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)
 - o AHS gave AAC its 2025 T. Michael Miller award recently.
 - o AHS hosted *The Alexandria Skating Rink: Sharing Memories of a Lost Landmark* on Saturday, July 12.
 - o AHS is awarding funding for the study and interpretation of Alexandria and Northern Virginia history through its History Grants program. A total of \$2,000 will be awarded as grants this year. The deadline to submit an application is Wednesday, October 15.
 - o AHS is working on a virtual museum, covering the entire history of the city.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization: no report
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): HAF reported that City Council is taking a look at how commission assignments are made, including at HAF.
- Business Community: no report
- Planning District Updates (Paula Whitacre, Esther White, Ivy Whitlatch): no report
- Members at Large (Kim Abraham, Cindy Boren, Raymond Eresman, Ann Greer, John Oldfield): no report

Eleanor Breen:

- Alexandria Archaeology accessioned 241 boxes from the Robinson Landing project.
- Eleanor provided an Archaeology Code Update for March – June 2025.
- Archaeology Updates:
 - o Summer Camp 2025 – Alexandria Archaeology staff and museum educators guided 14 students through the camp.
 - o Alexandria Archaeology will participate in the 2025 Conference on Public Archaeology in Washington, DC on August 8-9.
 - o Alexandria Archaeology is preparing for the Colored Rosemont Historic Marker Unveiling in Fall 2025.
 - o The annual Volunteer Party is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2026.
 - o Alexandria Archaeology took part in the reassembly of the gunboat at Ground Zero at the New York State Museum in Albany. Key takeaways include the importance of volunteers; the key role monitoring plays; and the challenges of reassembly.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 17, at 7 p.m., at Lloyd House.