

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of September 17, 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
Raymond Eresman, 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

Members Excused:

Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Unexcused:

Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (or equivalent organization)

Guests:

Sean Denniston, President of FOAA

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Call to Order

At 6:58 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, July 16, meeting minutes. Ann Greer moved to accept the minutes as written. Esther White seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report

Annual report: AAC members discussed the draft annual AAC report. Members applauded in particular the strong language on behalf of the returning ship timbers. Ted Pulliam moved to accept the annual report with corrections; Dylan Colligan seconded. AAC will transmit the annual report to the City Clerk.

AAC Membership Reports

- Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC): HARC has set up a committee dealing with the forthcoming City Hall/Market Square renovations. HARC is also discussing the ongoing Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project and the renovation of the Jones Point Lighthouse.
- Waterfront Updates: The Waterfront Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 16 featured discussions about the siting and design options for the pump station as part of the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project.

Ben Brenman Award: AAC members will assemble the 2025 Ben Brenman award, which will be presented at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 28, to Carr Properties.

Nomination Committee:

- Ivy, Esther, and John Oldfield were re-nominated for their respective roles as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The slate was presented to AAC. Seth Tinkham moved to accept the nomination; Dylan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee: AAC and the City of Alexandria will host a kick off meeting for the Wilkes Street Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Nomination on Tuesday, September 30. The meeting is for cemetery owners/custodians and will inform them of the Preliminary Information Form process that is the precursor to a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Advocacy Committee: The Advocacy Committee discussed two issues:

1. The list of topics that the Committee will monitor, e.g. the return of the ship hull remnant from Texas A&M's conservation laboratory; monitoring for future archaeology funding from the City; the waterfront pumping station; bottle hunting; plans for the renovation of City Hall and Market Square; the City's archaeological code; concerns about museum space; and advocacy to support the Cemetery Committee, and
2. Potential ways to communicate about the importance of archaeology, e.g. speaking at City Council meetings.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): No report. Sean Denniston, President of FOAA, attended the meeting as a guest.
- Visit Alexandria: Efforts remain underway to fill the seat for the Visit Alexandria Representative.
- Alexandria Association: No report.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS):
 - o The next AHS meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 24, featuring Dr. Krystyn Moon lecturing on "*Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Alexandria.*"
 - o AHS will celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month with Alexandria Archaeology on Sunday, October 12, by participating in the West End Farmer's Market from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - o AHS informed AAC that the Arlington Historical Society will host its Annual Banquet "*Honoring America's Past, Celebrating Arlington's Legacy*" on Tuesday, October 14.
 - o Applications remain open through Wednesday, October 15, for AHS's History Grants. Any research, preservation, conservation, or interpretation project is eligible; including, but not limited to; exhibits, articles, research papers/theses, books, and oral histories. Grants can be used to fund an entire project or help a larger project reach the finish line. A total of \$2,000 will be awarded as grants this year.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization: No report.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): No report.
- 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:

- AAC Member Michael Johnson attended the Alexandria Library Black Family Reunion on Saturday, September 6. The event brought neighborhoods together to help fill gaps in the documented history of Alexandria's African American community. Archaeology created a new brochure about Douglass Cemetery.
- The City's Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), in partnership with community members and descendants, unveiled on Saturday, September 13, a new state historic marker commemorating the legacy of the African American neighborhood Colored Rosemont.
- Alexandria Archaeology fully accessioned 241 boxes of artifacts from Robinson Landing and initiated a full conservation assessment.
- Archaeological Code updates:
 - o New historic interpretation signage was installed by RiverRenew at African American Heritage Park.
 - o Eleanor updated AAC on ongoing archaeological activity across the City.
- Alexandria Archaeology's 2025 Summer Camp was featured in *LIGHT*, the magazine of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.
- The 2025 Ben Brenman award will be presented at the Alexandria City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 28.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m., at Lloyd House.