

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of November 19, 2025

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative (Acting Secretary)
Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
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
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (or equivalent organization)
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)

Members Unexcused:

N/A

Guests:

N/A

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:00 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, October 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Ann Greer moved to accept the minutes as amended. Scott Vierick seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report: The Chair led a discussion of the annual AAC calendar, and it was decided to add appropriate Cemetery and Advocacy Committee deadlines to the document. As the Advocacy Committee is still relatively new, the committee is still determining what deadlines should be added.

AAC members also discussed the annual budget letter to the City Manager, focusing on the need for storage space for the conserved hull remnant once it comes back to Alexandria, as well as support for adding the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places.

AAC Membership Reports:

- Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC): HARC is monitoring ongoing discussions about the renovations of City Hall and Market Square and has provided a written statement for an upcoming Board of Architectural Review meeting. A new representative of the Old Town Civic Association has joined HARC.
- Waterfront Updates: The City is working on a new public art plan for the waterfront. Solicitation for a company to manage the Torpedo Factory Art Center will go in front of City Council on Tuesday, December 9. Work is occurring at Robinson Terminal North in

preparation for the new development. The Waterfront Commission has requested an in-person update on the pump station. The Waterfront Commission passed a motion to write a letter to the City Manager and City Council, urging that the study of the alternative pump station site also assess the split system option for the pump station (part in the park and part in 2 Prince).

Ben Brenman Award: The AAC Ben Brenman Award was presented on Tuesday, October 28 at the City Council meeting.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee:

- Cemetery Representatives have added several resources to a shared folder regarding the history of the cemetery complex.
- The committee plans to have a final version of the Preliminary Information Form ready in time for the Virginia State Review Board meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026. In anticipation of this, a working draft will be completed by Sunday, February 1, 2026 and a second draft will be sent to the cemetery representatives by Wednesday, April 1, 2026. The draft will be finalized by Monday, May 18, 2026.

Advocacy Committee:

- The Advocacy Committee reviewed drafts of two letters, one expressing support for keeping a Visit Alexandria representative on the AAC's roster, and another advocating for the needs and benefits of Alexandria Archaeology to be considered as the city moves forward with plans for the waterfront.
- Committee members provided suggested edits for both letters and voted that they be sent to the City Council through the Alex311 platform.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): The next FOAA meeting is next month.
- Visit Alexandria: No report. AAC members expressed hope that a representative will join soon.
- Alexandria Association: No report.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS will host a Revolutionary Watch Party for the final episode of the new Ken Burns' series, *The American Revolution* on Friday, November 21.
- 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, Raymond Eresman, Ann Greer, John Oldfield): No report.

Eleanor Breen:

- The presentation of the Ben Brenman Award on Tuesday, October 28 was a big success.
- Archaeology Month wrap-up: Alexandria Archaeology (AA) conducted two lectures at Northern Virginia Community College, two events in collaboration with Shopping

Stories, one program with the George Mason Life Long Learning Program, six Buried Ship lessons, two Hayti lessons, three Farmers Market events, one “Slip into the Past” program, two George Washington Middle School LEGO League Support Programs, one presentation at the Archaeological Society of Virginia Friday Night Public Archaeology Session, and one Douglass Cemetery Public Meeting. AA also provided support for the annual visit of students from Gonzaga High School.

- AA conducted outreach and hosted conversations and a public meeting regarding upcoming work at Douglass Cemetery and the burial permit application.
- Freedom House reopened.
- AA provided support for the Lego League Competitions for teams in Alexandria and beyond.
- Visitation at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum was strong during the government shutdown as many furloughed employees came to visit. AA staff also gave tours to museum interns working for the Federal Government.
- Fall interns: Four George Washington University MA students will be working on transcription, exhibits, and lab work projects.
- Eleanor will be speaking at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference and running a workshop January 8-10, 2026.
- Eleanor will participate in a forum at the Preservation Society of Charleston on Wednesday, January 28.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.