

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting**  
Minutes of January 21, 2026

**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  
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative  
Raymond (Chip) Eresman, Member at Large  
Ann Greer, Member at Large  
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (or equivalent organization)  
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  
Anita Winsor, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

**Members Excused:**

Cindy Boren, Member at Large

**Guest:**

Sean Denniston, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology

**Members Unexcused:**

N/A

**City Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

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

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, December 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Chip Eresman moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

**Chair Report:**

Ivy welcomed new member Anita Winsor, representing the Historic Alexandria Foundation. Ivy also complimented FOAA for a successful annual Volunteer Party, which City Councilman Kirk McPike attended.

AAC discussed the recent Request for Proposal from the City regarding the future governance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and the very few mentions therein of archaeology, the Archaeology Museum, or the anticipated 2028 return of the conserved ship hull remnants. Ivy drafted a letter to City Council expressing these concerns. Chip moved to approve the edited letter and ask Ivy to send it to City Council urgently. Scott Vierick seconded the motion. The motion passed and Ivy will send the letter to City Council.

AAC Ordinance revision: It is important that a representative of the Alexandria tourism community be present on the AAC membership roster. Esther White moved to suggest broadening the City Ordinance governing AAC to incorporate an AAC member from the Visit

Alexandria Board of Governors “or a representative of the tourism community.” Paula Whitacre seconded the motion, and the request will be made of the City.

Ivy led the annual review of AAC’s history, by-laws, and members’ responsibilities for the benefit of all members.

Selection of Committee Chairs: Scott will continue to lead the Advocacy Committee, and Paula agreed to chair the Wilkes Street Cemetery Committee.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) report: At HARC’s most recent meeting the key topic of conversation was the ongoing renovation of City Hall. AAC continues to engage with the process.

Waterfront Commission: The Waterfront Commission is working on its new Charter and Bylaws and continuing discussions about the waterfront pumping station. There was also discussion about the potential National Maritime Museum and its implications and opportunities for archaeology.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA thanked AAC for its support for the annual volunteer party and was pleased to give Seth Tinkham an award for his longstanding service to AAC.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): On Wednesday, January 28 at 7 p.m., AHS will host on Zoom “*Virginia Women in the American Revolution: Correcting the Historical Record*,” with historians Rebecca Rose and Dr. Cassandra Good. Also, nominations are open through Sunday, February 1 for the Alexandria History Awards, given to recognize the best of public history in Alexandria.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or Equivalent Organization: Work is underway on the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project.

### **Staff report:** Eleanor Breen

- The accession of two additional collections is underway by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.
- Alexandria Archaeology has recently invested a great deal of time and energy revisiting archaeological projects that had not been formally closed out. Efforts have been made to acquire any remaining artifacts, final reports, etc.
- Eleanor provided a quarterly update on ongoing archaeological projects across the city, including details about the Fort Ward playground relocation project and a new historical marker at Jackson Cemetery.
- Eleanor will participate in the Winter Membership Meeting of the Preservation Society of Charleston on Wednesday, January 28.

- AAC members are encouraged to participate with Friends of Alexandria Archaeology in the annual George Washington parade which will take place on Saturday, February 14.
- Alexandria will commemorate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday by hosting **Sails on the Potomac** from June 12-14 as a *Sail 250 Virginia 2026 Affiliate Harbor* event.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 18 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.