

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of February 18, 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
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Raymond (Chip) Eresman, Member at Large
Ann Greer, Member at Large
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

Members Excused:

Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (or equivalent organization)
Anita Winsor, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

Members Unexcused:

N/A

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

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

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, January 21 meeting minutes. Ted Pulliam moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dylan Colligan seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

The *Alexandria Times* published a letter written by Ivy entitled “A critical waterfront question,” reiterating AAC’s interest in properly displaying the conserved ship hull, expected to be returned to the City of Alexandria in 2028.

AAC continues to engage with the Request for Proposal (RFP) from the City regarding the governance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The RFP is now expected to include language inclusive of the city’s history.

Efforts continue to revise the AAC ordinance to include a “representative of the tourism community” on the AAC.

AAC is following with great interest the progress of the United States Maritime Foundation and the National Maritime Museum.

The annual George Washington Birthday Parade went well. AAC and Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) were well represented.

The AAC selected Freedom House Museum as the site for the annual AAC Walkabout for the June meeting.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) report:

- The future governance of the Torpedo Factory was discussed at the most recent HARC meeting, including whether the returning ship hull remnant should be located there.
- HARC also discussed the ongoing need for increased storage capacity in the City Archives.

Waterfront Commission:

- The Torpedo Factory RFP continues to be discussed; the Waterfront Commission is aware that the ship hull remnant is returning in 2028.
- Visit Alexandria will write a tourism master plan in FY28.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee:

- The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is being prepared and shared in draft form.
- The Cemetery Committee intends to present the next draft of the PIF by April to cemetery owners and then have another meeting with the owners after they review the draft.
- AAC's plan remains to submit the PIF to the Virginia State Review Board for consideration at their June meeting.

Advocacy Committee:

- The Advocacy Committee will write a letter to City Council stating 1) Thank you for stronger language about history in the Torpedo Factory RFP; 2) please establish an inclusive advisory group to deal with the return of the ship hull remnant; and 3) when selecting a winning proposal, please properly weight Alexandria's extensive maritime history as shown in part by the hull remnant. Ted moved to send this letter; Esther White seconded. Scott Vierick will draft the letter.
- The Committee will continue to explore how to best keep the ship hull remnant on the public's front burner.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA reported that the annual George Washington parade went well; FOAA won a community spirit award.
- Alexandria Association: The next event in the lecture series will be a lecture by Jeffrey Ricketts entitled *The Antiques and Architecture of Brick Meeting House, Maryland: 1700-1870* on Monday, March 16 at The Lyceum.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS will offer a lecture on Wednesday, February

25 by Mary Thompson entitled *How Martha Washington Spent the Revolutionary War*. AHS' next lecture will be on Monday, March 9 by Ken Bancroft, entitled *An English Tory in Old Town*. The nomination period for the Alexandria History Awards has been extended through Saturday, February 21.

Staff report: Eleanor Breen

- AAC Members are encouraged to attend the 2026 George Washington Symposium on Saturday, February 21. Eleanor will deliver a lecture entitled "*Beneath the Revolution: What Archaeology Reveals About Alexandria and the War for Independence.*"
- Benjamin Skolnik of Alexandria Archaeology will deliver a lecture entitled *How Do We Know That?: Documenting the Slave Jail at 1315 Duke Street* at The Lee-Fendall House on Saturday, February 21.
- Work on the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Project has started. Descendants performed a blessing of the project on Tuesday, February 17, acknowledging the people buried there.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.