

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting**  
Minutes of March 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  
Raymond (Chip) Eresman, Member at Large  
Ann Greer, Member at Large  
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Representative  
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative  
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III  
Anita Winsor, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

**Members Excused:**

Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative  
Michael Johnson, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (or equivalent organization)  
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association Representative

**Members Unexcused:**

N/A

**City Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

At 7:06 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, February 18 meeting minutes. Ann Greer moved to accept the minutes as amended. Anita Winsor seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

**Chair Report:**

Ben Brenman Awards: John Oldfield was chosen to chair the Ben Brenman Award Committee.

Vacancy: Ivy and the AAC expressed their gratitude for Esther White's service on the AAC. There will soon be a vacancy for AAC Commissioner for Planning District II, and for the AAC Vice Chair.

City Manager's Proposed Budget: AAC members continue to engage with the Alexandria City Council regarding budget for the return (and hopefully, display) of the conserved ship hull remnant from Texas A&M, now planned for 2028.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) report: Ivy represented the AAC at the most recent HARC meeting, raising ongoing concerns about the Torpedo Factory Art Center and the need for the City of Alexandria to accommodate the return of the conserved ship hull remnant.

Waterfront Commission report: At its most recent meeting, the Waterfront Commission continued the discussion of its bylaws and membership.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Cemetery Committee:

- Members have completed the text of the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, including photographs and maps.
- AAC will organize another meeting with cemetery owners on April 13 to get their support and prepare the PIF for submission.

#### Advocacy Committee:

- The Committee discussed improvements to be made to the letter that AAC will send to City Council regarding the future governance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC). Scott Vierick will edit the letter.
- The Committee also discussed ideas for Ivy's ongoing advocacy regarding history as a pivotal part of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, dating back to Marian Van Landingham. There is a need to emphasize that archaeology and art reinforce each other.
- The Committee also expressed its willingness to advocate on behalf of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex nomination process (see above).

### **Commissioner Reports:**

- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS will offer a lecture on Wednesday, March 25 by Amanda Roper entitled *Saving America's Past: Women in Preservation*, exploring the significant and evolving role women have played in historic preservation.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): Efforts continue to track the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Pump Station situation. Anita Winsor also noted the forthcoming publication of *Old Town Style: Inside Alexandria's Most Beautiful Historic Homes*.

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

- Eleanor provided AAC with a Quarterly Code Update, including highlights of one excavation project in each planning district.
- No new collections were accessioned last quarter, but Alexandria Archaeology is working with the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory to prioritize items for conservation from the Robinson Landing site, including scissors, buttons, a horseshoe, and a jaw harp.
- One new Historic Interpretation sign was placed in the last quarter, recounting the history of firefighting in Alexandria in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Alexandria Archaeology continues with its ongoing review of development projects across the city, only a small percentage of which require archaeological action. Most projects require developers simply to call the City if anything of archaeological interest is found and to adhere to the banning of metal detectors during construction.

- Alexandria Archaeology participated in the *Read Across America* citywide event as the latest of its efforts to embed archaeology in city events.
- Another cleanup is planned soon at the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.
- Alexandria Archaeology and the Office of Historic Alexandria continue with its plans to participate in *Sails on the Potomac*, planned for Friday-Sunday, June 12-14.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.