

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting**  
Minutes of April 15, 2026

**Members Present:**

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)  
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical Society Representative (Acting Secretary)  
Cindy Boren, 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

Paula Whitacre, Planning District III  
Anita Winsor, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

**Members Excused:**

John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)  
Kim Abraham, Member at Large

**Members Unexcused:**

N/A

**City Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

**FOAA:**

Sean Denniston  
Kelli Kordich  
Linda Lovell

At 7:06 p.m., at the Lloyd House, Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order. This was a joint meeting with Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA).

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, March 18 meeting minutes. Scott Vierick moved to accept the minutes as amended. Chip Eresman seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

**FOAA Report:**

Sean Denniston updated the AAC on several FOAA goals and initiatives including holding more events and growing membership. FOAA will participate in a curator-led tour of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

**Chair Report:**

Work on the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex National Historic Register nomination continues.

Vacancies: There are vacancies for AAC Commissioner for Planning District 2, AAC Vice Chair, and AAC's representative to serve on the Waterfront Commission. Ted Pulliam was chosen to lead the nominating committee to select a new Vice Chair.

Dylan Colligan nominated Ivy to serve on the Waterfront Commission. Anita Winsor seconds, and the motion passed.

Potential change in ordinance: The possibility to change AAC membership language from a “Visit Alexandria representative” to anyone involved in the Alexandria tourism community will go before City Council in May.

Ivy and Eleanor Breen met with Emily Baker and Julian Gonzalez to discuss the planning process for the ship hull from the Hotel Indigo Site.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) report: There was no report as their meeting occurs after AAC’s this month.

Waterfront Commission report: With the National Park Service blocking construction of the pump station, the City is moving forward with exploring other options to mitigate flooding on the waterfront.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Cemetery Committee:

- Work continues on preparing the Preliminary Information Form for submission. This is the next step for the nomination of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Historic Register.
- AAC had a productive meeting with the owners of Wilkes Street cemeteries on Monday, April 13.

#### Advocacy Committee:

- The Committee discussed opportunities for coordinating with FOAA on advocacy efforts.
- The Committee discussed continuing to monitor the ongoing RFP process for finding an operator for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and efforts to engage other Torpedo Factory Art Center stakeholders throughout the process of securing a home for the ship hull.
- The Committee discussed plans to send the winner of the City Council election a welcome packet about the work that Alexandria Archaeology does and the need to find a home for the ship hull.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS will host its annual history awards on Wednesday, April 22. Former AAC commissioner Seth Tinkham will receive the T. Michael Miller Award. Dr. Peter Henriques will serve as the keynote speaker.
- Alexandria Association: Emilie Johnson will speak on Monday, April 20 on “The Experience of Boarding in Late Eighteenth Century America.”
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): Friday, May 1 is the deadline to apply for one of HAF’s grants. Saturday, May 30 will be the annual garden party and fundraiser.
- Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent organization: Work on the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project has started. There will be a

Juneteenth event to honor people laid to rest at the cemetery and the City staff who have worked with the Social Responsibility group on Douglass Cemetery flood remediation efforts.

**Staff report:** Eleanor Breen

- Work continues on the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project. An intern from American University is collaborating with Alexandria Archaeology. FOAA provided a stipend for the intern.
- The Alexandria Archaeology Museum is getting a new HVAC system and improved lighting.
- Alexandria Archaeology staff are participating on a panel about Colored Rosemont hosted by the College of William & Mary's Lemon Project.
- The Office of Historic Alexandria is holding a Spring2ACTion event at the Friendship Firehouse Museum on Wednesday, April 22.
- On Friday, May 1, Alexandria Archaeology will participate in Building Safety Day.
- There will be a weeding event at the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery on Saturday, May 2.
- There will be a transcribing event of 18<sup>th</sup> century store ledges on Sunday, May 3 in partnership with History Revealed.
- On Friday, May 8, there will be a "Grown-Up Field Trip" focusing on African American Stories at Alexandria's Archives and Records Center.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.