

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of July 15, 2026

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical
Society Representative (Vice Chair)
John Oldfield, Member at Large, (Secretary)
Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cynthia (Cindy) Boren, Member at Large
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Raymond (Chip) Eresman, Member at Large
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:

Ann Greer, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage or
equivalent organization Representative

Members Unexcused:

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

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

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, May 20 meeting minutes. Dick Owens moved to accept the minutes as amended, Chip Eresman seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, June 17 meeting minutes. Ted Pulliam moved to accept the minutes as written, Cindy Boren seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

AAC Annual Report: Ivy and Eleanor Breen will draft the report. The nomination of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places process will be the focus of the report, along with a discussion of the display location (including, potentially, the Torpedo Factory Art Center) for the conserved ship hull remnant.

Membership:

- Ordinance Change – The proposed change in the City of Alexandria ordinance to “Visit Alexandria Board of Governors or a representative of the tourism community” was approved by City Council. This AAC member slot is now open to being filled in August.
- Vacancies: AAC terms expiring at the end of September are Ann Greer, Michael Johnson, and John Oldfield. Ann and John are eligible to reapply, Michael is not, due to changes in rules regarding City employees serving on Boards and Commissions. Planning District II is vacant.

Nominations Committee: Ivy requested that Ted serve as Nominations Committee Chair and that he bring a slate to the September AAC meeting for a vote on Chair, Vice Chair, and

Secretary.

Ben Brenman Awards: Kim Abraham made a motion to nominate the Social Responsibility Group and the Friends of Douglass Cemetery for the 2026 Ben Brenman Award. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

AAC Membership Reports:

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC): Ivy recommended that AAC members attend the next HARC meeting on Tuesday, July 21, at which Kathy Seifert will provide an update on the Tall Ship Providence.

Waterfront Commission: Ivy reported that topics of discussion at the most recent meeting included the need for better signage for guests arriving in Alexandria by river. The Commission recently took a boat tour from the Power Station to Jones Point to see the waterfront from the river and discuss ongoing projects.

Committees: The Cemetery Committee is concluding its work now that the process has moved to the National Register nomination draft phase. Ivy led a discussion on the format of meetings and the potential need for new committees, in addition to the Advocacy Committee.

- “Advocacy Committee:” Ivy suggested potentially reforming the Advocacy Committee or a broader Waterfront Archaeology Committee, to be tasked with determining path(s) forward for the display of the returning ship hull remnant and associated ship models, artifacts, cases, display materials. The findings and suggestions of this Committee would be expected to be supported in turn by the Advocacy Committee.
- “Oral History Committee:” Paula Whitacre suggested establishing an Oral History Committee (focused on former staff and contributors to the program).

Ivy asked members to consider which of the two committees they would have interest in joining for the September meeting.

Commissioner Reports:

- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS will present a tour called “*Alexandria’s Patriots Remembered: A Revolutionary Walk Through the Old Presbyterian Meeting House*” on Saturday, July 18. AHS will also host a launch party for the new Alexandria Digital History Museum. The launch party will have a panel of experts on Alexandria’s history, including City Archaeologist Eleanor Breen, and will be held at the Athenaeum on Tuesday, July 28.
- Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): HAF is following the Board of Architectural Review docket including the 333 North Fairfax demolition certificate. Additionally, HAF is planning to expand its plaque program to include houses from more modern periods.

Staff Report: Eleanor Breen

- Alexandria Archaeology recently hosted a researcher from Indiana University who used some of the City's collections for his research
- With financial support provided by Alexandria resident Jeanne Small, the City replaced the aging historic interpretation sign for Bush Hill Plantation. The City also installed a new historic interpretation sign at the Cross Canal Neighborhood.
- Eleanor reports that development initiatives citywide are back up to pre-COVID levels, and her team at Alexandria Archaeology is very busy. Of note are 1) a project near Cameron Run that encompasses a historic tributary that could include native American resources; 2) a property on Longview Drive where a historic cistern shaft was found; 3) a project on North Alfred Street where a school for Black girls was until it was torn down in the 1920s.
- In the continuing effort to bring archaeology to the public, Alexandria Archaeology has partnered with the Alexandria Library to produce posters featuring Eleanor and her recommended books *Kid Scientist: Archaeologists on a Dig* and *Unearth a Story*.
- The annual Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp attracted 15 campers.
- Dr. Greg Beaman recently published *Alexandria City Hall, Market Square, and Slavery: A Documentary Study*.
- Alexandria Archaeology participated in a Juneteenth event at Douglass cemetery. The flood mitigation project at the cemetery is wrapping up, and now the phase of long-term preservation begins. This may include a statue of Frederick Douglass.
- Emma Richardson, Archaeology Education Coordinator, participated in the DC Day of Archaeology Festival.
- Alexandria Archaeology will offer a *Grown-Up Field Trip: Archaeology Museum* event on Sunday, July 19 at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

There will be no meeting of the AAC in August. The next meeting of the AAC will take place on Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.