

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of September 16, 2026

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Robert (Scott) Vierick, Alexandria Historical
Society Representative (Vice Chair,
Acting Secretary)
Kim Abraham, Member at Large
Cindy Boren, Member at Large
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community
Representative
Ann Greer, Member at Large
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of
Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)
Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Excused:

Raymond (Chip) Eresman, Member at Large
Michael Johnson, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage (or
equivalent organization)
John Oldfield, Member at Large (Secretary)
Anita Winsor, Historic Alexandria
Foundation Representative

Members Unexcused:

N/A

City Staff:

Garrett Fesler, Deputy City Archaeologist

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

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, July 15 meeting minutes. Ann Greer moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dylan Colligan seconded. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair Report:

Ivy updated the AAC on the status of the annual report. AAC members reviewed the report and provided suggestions. Ted Pulliam moved to accept the report as amended. Kim Abraham seconded. Motion passed.

Vacancy: There is a vacancy for AAC Commissioner for Planning District II. Visit Alexandria has nominated someone to fill the seat on the AAC reserved for a member of the city's tourism community.

Slate committee: Ted Pulliam nominated Ivy to serve another term as Chair, Scott Vierick to serve as Vice Chair, and John Oldfield to serve as Secretary. Dylan moved to accept the slate committee's nominations. Paula Whitacre seconded. Motion passed.

Awards: The Ben Brenman Awards will be given at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 13.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) report: HARC's last meeting was a tour of the Wilkes Street Cemetery complex given by David Heiby. The tour was very well received.

Waterfront Commission report: The Commission's last meeting started with a review of the 2012 Small Area Plan. The discussion focused on what has been accomplished since the plan was finalized and what still needs to be done particularly with regards to flood mitigation and art and history on the waterfront.

Committee Reports:

AAC continued to discuss reorganizing its committees. It was decided to continue with an advocacy committee that, for the foreseeable future, will focus on the ship hull remnant, which will be returning soon to the city, as well as to create a new oral history committee. This new committee will identify potential interviewees who can speak to the development of Alexandria Archaeology and the AAC. Members of the committee will record and transcribe their stories.

Commissioner Reports:

- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA recently held their annual meeting and are working on preparing their annual report.
- Alexandria Association: Patty Sheetz is leading a walking tour of Old Town on Monday, September 28, focusing on how the Potomac River helped shape the city.
- Alexandria Historical Society (AHS): AHS is hosting a panel discussion about Alexandria before, during, and after the American Revolution on Wednesday, September 23. On Saturday, October 3, the organization is partnering with the Descendants of Douglass Cemetery and Alexandria Archaeology for a program at Douglass Cemetery.
- Business Community: There are not currently any plans to revive the idea of a business improvement district (BID) in Old Town.
- Planning District I: The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) is discussing plans for updating the guidelines for the Alexandria Old and Historic District. BAR representatives will be speaking at HARC next month.

Staff report: Garrett Fesler

- The Alexandria Forum will take place on Friday, September 18 at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum on Alexandria and Northern Virginia's pivotal role in the Revolutionary War. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Greg Beaman, who authored the recent study on the history of Alexandria City Hall and Market Square.
- Tons of Trucks is coming up on Saturday, September 26 at Chinquapin Park. The Alexandria Archaeology van will be there.
- Archaeology Month is coming up in October. Alexandria Archaeology has many events planned.
- There will be an Armistice Day event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center that includes the unveiling of a revamped modernized exhibit on the history of the Torpedo Factory.
- Archaeology staff are encouraged by the large number of books and articles published recently that discuss waterfront archaeology. Selected works include: Kathryn Lasdow's *Wharfed Out: Gentrification and Resistance on the Early American Waterfront*, Megan Jefferys' *Freedom Seeking in Alexandria*, Chelsea Cohen's *Urban Maritime Landscape and Ships*, and Maureen McGinnis' *Alexandria Freedom Suits*.
- Alexandria Archaeology is hiring a part-time archaeological technician.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.