

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
Minutes of June 16, 2021 Draft

Public Registration URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsZHf9pgTJG29clEEDFmHg

Meeting/Webinar ID: 922 1607 7097

Meeting/Webinar Password: 431483

Dial-in number: 301.715.8592

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Member at Large, Secretary
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (FOAA) Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association
Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation
Representative

Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large

Members Absent:

Dylan Colligan, Business Community
Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative
Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria
Historical Society Representative

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Call to Order: Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice for the City of Alexandria by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Eleanor Breen

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the April 21, 2021, meeting of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020, or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at the Lloyd House at 220 N. Washington, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the link or phone number posted on the City calendar. Public comment will be received at the meeting by stating name and comment. Questions can be submitted to the committee through the Q&A feature on Zoom. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the alexandriava.gov/historic webpage. Zoom is compatible with assistive technologies such as screen readers and keyboard shortcuts.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The May 19 Minutes were reviewed. Ralph Rosenbaum motioned to approve minutes as amended, Mark Ludlow seconded the motion, and voted to accept the motion.

Chair Report:

Update on HARC – Request by Living Legends to deaccession the portraits of every Living Legend from OHA collection and give to Living Legend Foundation because several of the Living Legends would like to have their portraits. No motions were made. At the next meeting, a presentation will be

made by the Living Legends Foundation to explain why they want the portraits back.

This meeting is the AAC's last virtual meeting – next meeting in July will be held at Lloyd House. Guidance from City Clerk, as of July 1, all boards and commission will meet in person. Part of tonight's business is to adopt an electronic participation policy that will cover from July 1 to September 31. Essentially is the guidance for the next three meetings. Unless the AAC can show it is unsafe to meet in person, AAC will no longer have electronic meetings. Especially true for AAC since it is a small commission and Lloyd House offers a large space to allow for social distancing. Eleanor reviewed the Policy and asked AAC to consider adoption of the policy. Need to have quorum physically present to vote – half of members plus one. Will allow phone in/electronic participation with Chair's approval if there is a medical condition preventing members physical attendance. Must provide reason for staying at home, but then reason becomes part of the City record. City Clerk encouraging AAC to approve, then will expire on September 30. Mark Ludlow stated that the Waterfront Commission was told the City Attorney said not to make changes because this version follows state laws, either accept the policy or don't. Seth Tinkham raised concerns that this is the first chance to review the policy with two weeks' notice. As of September 30, will no longer have the option to have electronic or hybrid meetings. Ralph moved to accept the Electronic Participation Policy as written, Dick seconded the motion. Passed in seven to three vote with one abstention.

Also from HARC, Ivy provided an update on the Judge Black House.

- Alexandria Archaeology Support Committee Dick Owens had nothing to report
- Civic Engagement Committee – Need to come up with new committee head in July

Ben Brenman Awards Update: E-news soliciting nominations was sent out. Nominations close beginning of July.

Membership Update: Topic for July, filling vacant positions. In September will discuss how to fill vacated positions (Ann Davin's and Janice Magnuson's), Planning District III, at large member, and Society member. Tammie Gillums has applied for the Society position. Jake got notice that his appointment is ending within 90 days. He is eligible to reapply.

Seth requested information on ARP funding as it pertained to Historic Alexandria (OHA). OHA submitted proposed funding for additional African American history initiatives, carry on with African American Civil Rights Network and create a Civil Rights Network trail, and a partnership with Visit Alexandria to celebrate Alexandria's founding and history. Hopefully, will have an update on Council approval by next month's meeting.

Waterfront Archaeology: No update from Eleanor

Waterfront Commission: Mark reported that the Waterfront Commission met yesterday. Discussed the Electronic Participation Policy. All other issues discussed did not relate to archaeology.

Heritage Trail: OHA and Alexandria Archaeology will celebrate Juneteenth with the African American Heritage Trail Committee event on the virtual waterfront. Alexandria Archaeology Museum Education Specialist, Emma Richardson, has been working hard to put together video clips, which include Ted Pulliam talking about the Old Dominion Glass Company, McArthur Myers talking about The Berg, and Lillian Patterson talking about her discovery of a photo within the trail being of her mother. Black History Museum Director, Audrey Davis will emcee, John Chapman will talk about

African American history in Alexandria, and the event will end with a panel discussion with Susie Cohen, Gwen Day-Fuller, John Chapman, and Benjamin Skolnik, talking about their personal intersection with African American history. Juneteenth was just made a federal holiday and is a City of Alexandria holiday. Eleanor encourages people to attend and the event will be recorded for future viewing.

Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC): Ivy knows nothing more about vibrancy plan for TFAC. Some of the Artists have been working to meet with Emily Baker to discuss concerns. No staff update.

Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training: Done by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. Ivy stated she found it very interesting, though mostly focused on the BAR, but some things apply to AAC. Liz Vehmeyer shared a summary. The focus was on how applications went through the BAR, but there were general recommendations about setting up and operating any commission meetings and information about the roles of commission and staff, what staff in Local government have to deal with, how many people are involved at local level, and best practices about being member of commission. Looked at specifics for Alexandria, what are demographics, how to communicate, how best to take in information, diversity and equity, barriers to engaging with the community, and how to overcome those barriers. “Listen to the story you are told not the one you want to hear.” These words of wisdom are always good when working with history and engaging with groups, especially if you may have not worked with those groups before. Ivy added, the presenter talked a lot about oral history. Ivy felt Alexandria is a bit ahead of the curve. The NAPC offers various trainings, including custom trainings. The AAC can get funding through CLG grant to cover training costs.

Quarterly Code updates: Eleanor showed a PowerPoint presentation showing development and Archaeology projects in the city. Some projects include: Park View, 5380 Homes Run Parkway – 19th century map shows there may be buildings related to Cloud’s Mill and a consultant will be hired for archaeology study; Minnie Howard sits on 19th century property that includes Cassius house; and a Seminary road property that may contain Civil War and Native American resources, consultant has already been hired.

- Ben Skolnik will be giving talks for the next FOAA After Dark and also for Arlington on July 8.
- “Chesapeake Shores,” a Hallmark show will be on Netflix. They used Alexandria archaeology images of excavations in the show’s museum.
- Mark asked for an update on the power plant and potential for archaeology? Nothing to report yet.
- TFAC –brainstorming about EJI pillars July 9

The next meeting will be July 21 and will be held at the Lloyd House.

Eleanor will send link to record hours.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.