

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) Minutes
Minutes of July 21, 2021 Meeting

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice
Chair, Acting Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Business Community
Representative
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria
Representative
Richard (Dick) Owen, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (FOAA) Representative
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria
Association Representative
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large

Members Absent:

Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation Representative
Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria
Historical Society Representative

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Members of the Public:

John Oldfield, Institute Maritime History

Call to Order: Ivy Whitlatch, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

The City of Alexandria requests all minutes approved during the remote Zoom meetings held during the Covid-19 pandemic be approved during an in-person format. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept all minutes as amended; Liz Vehmeyer seconded, all AAC members agreed.

Chair Report:

Thrilled to be back together and looking forward for the next year.

Nominations Committee:

Ted Pulliam, Chair of Nomination Committee, reported that Ivy has agreed to serve another term as AAC Chair, and Esther White also agreed to another term as Vice Chair. Still need to find a someone to serve as Secretary.

Ben Brenman Award:

Liz agreed to serve on the Ben Brenman Award Committee and Ivy will help Liz with creating the award. Fran Bromberg submitted a nomination for the African American Heritage Trail Committee and members discussed additional nominees including EYA, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), and Griffin Binot, who led an Eagle Scout project at Douglass Cemetery. Ted moved to defer EYA and the MAC Lab to next year and present the Brenman award to the Trail committee and Griffin Binot; Ralph seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

Annual Report (Due August 31):

The Annual Report is due August 31. Ivy, Esther, and Eleanor Breen will work on it.

By-Laws (Due November 1):

The City Clerk's office has requested that all commissions have by-laws and review existing by-laws. Dick Owen and Ted agreed to work together to draft AAC bylaws for review in September.

Membership Update:

Ann Davin and Mark Ludlow have both resigned so AAC needs to fill several membership vacancies. Anne and Mark both held at-large positions and there are also openings for Planning District III and the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage representatives. Vacancies are listed on the City website and if there are no interested participants in the next month or so AAC will discuss advertising in a local publication or online to spread the word.

Planning Updates and Reports:

- **Waterfront Archaeology Update – Eleanor**

Archaeology is working on the plan to take timbers to Ben Brenman Pond. Emma is planning to have a public education component to submerging the timbers and staff is working on draft signs for the area to discuss the timbers. Eleanor spoke to the Cameron Station Civic Association and there is a discussion of students from Tucker Elementary School participating in the educational component. There is also discussion of something at the Beatley Central Library. The timing of the submerging is still tentative, staff is hoping it will occur in the fall.

- **African American Heritage Trail Committee - Eleanor**

The committee has completed a draft of the southern section of the trail.

- **African American Civil Rights Network Nomination for Freedmen Cemetery - Eleanor**

Saturday, July 24 is the dedication of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery as part of the National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Network. The dedication begins at 8 a.m. and all are welcome.

Other Business:

Ralph moved to cancel the August AAC meeting; Dick seconded; all AAC members agreed.

Staff Reports:

Wednesday, September 15– Next AAC Meeting

Public Comment:

John Oldfield introduced himself and the Institute of Maritime History.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.