

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2015

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Vice Chair)
Kevin McCandlish, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage
Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria Historical
Society
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

Members Absent:

Vince LaPointe, Planning District I (Chair)
Ellen Hamilton, Chamber of Commerce
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

The February 2015 Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) meeting took place at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. The meeting included a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. The formal component of the meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

The Minutes for the January 2015 meeting will be reviewed and approved at the March meeting.

Chair Report: AAC Chair Vince LaPointe is away and will return in March.

Budget: AAC Member Indy McCall relayed that the Proposed Budget will be issued March 3. City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg reminded the Commission that between March 3 and April 20 will be the best time to lobby for improved funding on behalf of historic resources and initiatives. It will all depend on the budget released March 3, so the AAC agreed to return to the topic at the March meeting.

Membership: AAC member Ted Pulliam's term expired this month, and he has been reappointed for his last term. AAC member and Chamber of Commerce representative Ellen Hamilton had previously indicated that she will not be reapplying and that there will be a vacancy as the Chamber's representative.

AAC Brochure: AAC member Kathleen Pepper noted that she has markups to shorten the brochure on her computer and will revise the latest draft accordingly.

Public Education Committee: The Public Education Subcommittee has not yet met and is working to find the best opportunity to do so.

Cemetery Committee: Kathleen informed the Commission that she is still finalizing the fillable form. An email will be sent out with the completed document somewhere in the range of the end of March - early April. An email also will go out regarding the next meeting time.

Threatened Historic Sites Committee: The AAC discussed the Threatened Historic Sites Annual Press Release. The timeline for this new initiative will most likely be similar to that of the Ben Brenman awards. The number of activities involved with such a process may require a master calendar to document the phases and steps entailed. It is hoped that the same program can be repeated each year so that it can be incorporated into AAC strategic plans in the future. Indy told the AAC that the Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF) would like to participate as well, and that an ongoing collaboration could be formed.

AAC Calendar: Next Monday is the George Washington Birthday Parade. After the parade, those marching with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) are invited to the Archaeology Museum for pizza and cobbler. It would be great if the AAC could bring a strong contingent. Members were asked to message AAC member Rebecca Siegel and Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) staff Jennifer Barker if they think that they can attend and to wear the color red.

AAC Anniversary: The AAC's 40th Anniversary was celebrated with an official proclamation at the City Council meeting last night. Several former AAC members were able to attend, as well as join tonight's potluck.

Waterfront: AAC member Ted Pulliam updated the AAC that the Waterfront Commission does not meet until next week and that the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) has no waterfront-related content at their recent meeting. Fran informed the Commission that Olin is trying to come up with some uniform elements for the walkway. She will be present at meetings where this topic will be discussed. When the developers go forward with plans for the Robinson Terminals and the Carr Hospitality Hotel, they will have a clear idea of what will be implemented in public spaces for uniformity (so as to ensure a continuous theme).

Indy expressed concern that the AAC is not seeing enough commitment to history at the present stage. It is not a matter of a lack of desire to incorporate historical components, but rather that the developers involved simply have not begun to implement it. HAF is trying to get all representatives to speak as one in order to best move this focus forward. It was suggested that a letter be written to City Council relaying the AAC's concerns and to reissue reminders for the ways in which history should be represented. AAC member Janice Magnuson inquired if there were any upcoming public meetings where the concerns could be expressed, which yielded the response that Saturday Council meetings may be the best opportunity.

Torpedo Factory Art Center Board: The AAC is still looking for a new representative to the Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC) Board. Ralph may be willing to sign on in this role, though the issue will be tabled until the March meeting.

Freedmen's Cemetery: Fran informed the AAC that she is still working on getting stones for the sidewalk. Additional descendants, for whom Char Bah recognized ancestors, will have stones as well (encompassing between 15-20 additional icons). Fran expressed excitement for beginning to utilize the space for historic programs.

Ben Brenman Awards: The Ben Brenman Awards Committee will begin soliciting nominations from representative groups. It was suggested that a list be kept regarding when each representative group meets and that each representative should encourage the members of these organizations to submit nominations for the award. It was also recommended that precise definitions for who can be nominated

should be included.

Fort Ward: It was discussed that City Council adopted the Fort Ward Management Plan with some added criteria, including an altered notification timeline from 7 to 10 days for ground disturbance. An Implementation Committee will be formed and there will be an upcoming City Council work session with city staff and descendants. City Council has also requested that oral history interviews be conducted. There will also be a public lecture on black history and grave identification. Janice mentioned that Dave Cavanaugh wrote a very good letter in the Alexandria Times.

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC): HARC has not met yet this month.

Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Kathleen updated the AAC that the group will not meet until later in the month.

Alexandria Historical Society: AAC member Katy Cannady reported that she skipped the AHS meeting to attend this month's AAC meeting and anniversary potluck.

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA): FOAA has been primarily focused on preparations for the George Washington Birthday Parade Celebration. FOAA will also be participating in Spring2Action on April 22 to raise money. More information about the initiative will be shared as it draws closer.

Chamber of Commerce: There are no updates regarding the Chamber of Commerce.

Alley Project: AAC member Seth Tinkham reported that every alley in the old and historic district of the City of Alexandria has been surveyed with the exception of one or two, thanks to a tremendous group of committed volunteers. Mike Commisso is working on combining geo-spatial data to align historic aerials with each alley's period of significant activity, along with descriptors of each alley, small scale features, landscapes, and orientation. A motion was also passed to apply for a HAF grant to synthesize the data and develop contextual analysis.

Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): Indy already provided the report regarding HAF.

Alexandria Association: The Alexandria Association meets later in the month.

Staff Report: Fran mentioned that the advertisement for the Part Time Archaeologist position went out, and will be open for applications until February 25.

Roundtable: No roundtable discussion was held.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum.