

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2015 - FINAL

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria
Historical Society
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Ellen Hamilton, Chamber of Commerce
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Vincent LaPointe, Planning District I (Chair)
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II

Members Absent: None

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

The AAC's Chair, Indy McCall, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Indy suggested that we review minutes of the October meeting. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as amended and Janice Magnuson seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

Chair Report: Indy reported, that HARC is currently reviewing its role within the preservation/historic community and in particular its role in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names. Indy also reported that Craig Fifer [Director of Communications and Public Information] is in the process of changing the membership for the Confederate Memorials re-naming committee and is not sure who will be on it.

Membership issues: This was Ellen Hamilton's last meeting on the AAC as the Chamber of Commerce representative, her term expires November 22. This was also Vincent LaPointe's last meeting as the District One representative, he is resigning as of November 25. Several names were put forth as potential candidates. Additionally, we will need to vote on Ted Pulliam's membership in the Waterfront Committee which expires in January.

Strategic Plan: Indy requested that we table discussion of the Strategic Plan until a later meeting.

2016 Proposed Quarterly External Meeting Locations: Locations for the 2016 meeting calendar were discussed. It was proposed that the First Quarter's location be in the Delray neighborhood, possibly at Del Ray Artisans on Mount Vernon Avenue. Kathleen Pepper volunteered to locate and contact new leader of Delray Arts Center. Fran Bromberg suggested that the Second Quarter's location be the Canal area in Old Town North, perhaps in June. Fran will coordinate walkabout along Canal and will work with Indy on schedule. Episcopal

Seminary was the location of the proposed Third Quarter venue. Mary Jane volunteered to reach out and see whether it was possible. Suggestions for the Fourth Quarter included the Buddy Ford Nature Preserve and St. Paul's. Ted Pulliam will coordinate possible meeting site with St. Paul's. Possible Saturday tour of Carlyle House was discussed.

Old Town North Small Area Plan: A week long charrette regarding the OTN Small Area Plan ran from November 16 through November 20 at the Canal Center with a presentation by Fran on Thursday, November 19. Indy proposed drafting several four bullet points to be read into the minutes of the charrette on Thursday or Friday. Janet volunteered for the project.

Indy summarized that the main points to focus on are: 1) the importance of OTN's historic/industrial activities; and 2) to expand this discussion with the City Council and to emphasize how important it is to incorporate OTN as part of the entire waterfront development.

Waterfront Committee: Ted Pulliam reported that private developers were moving quickly in the planning and development stages: 1) Carr Indigo Hotel property construction has begun and excavations located the foundations of the wharf and warehouse. Funding for preservation of the beams has been provided by the City and additional funding is being sought for dendrochronology. Some suggestions from our Waterfront Plan have been incorporated in the design of the hotel; 2) The Boat Club has had its design work approved by the City; 3) Robinson Terminal South is developing a history plan and incorporating aspects of our waterfront plan including street names, a timeline and original shoreline; 4) Robinson Terminal North planning is not as developed. We will need to keep an eye on what is being planned.

Common elements of the Waterfront are being designed by Olin, who has been receptive to history and the Waterfront Plan. Discussed need to keep these common elements historically accurate.

Currently the Waterfront committee is in discussions to set up a governance committee to fund and oversee the upcoming projects.

Fort Ward: A brief discussion was held on the new Fort Ward committee and its implications.

Threatened Sites: Discussions ensued on defining what we wanted to do and how to proceed. 1. What do we do with current situation; and 2. What do we do moving forward. Need to consider the liability issue of nominating someone else's property.

Kathleen Pepper suggested that in 2016 we have a public forum, film it, and record the nominations and landowners, why they feel this site is important to Alexandria's history, and why/how site/building is threatened. Lyceum suggested as a possible venue. AAC can compile the results and present a summary to Lance and City Council, which can be used as a springboard to future actions. Need a non-City group to enact it. KP will draft a press release regarding the public forum.

Discussions continued on how we present the information compiled from the public forum and how to use it to preserve the endangered sites. Other suggestions included promoting sites/buildings outside of Old Town and other historic districts, to appeal to a wider city audience. Discussed that we organize a workshop on the top 10 sites compiled during the public

forum. FOAA could possibly help with refreshments, etc. for workshop. Can coordinate with Al Cox, Historic Preservation Manager with the Department of Planning & Zoning, who is looking at tax credits, and other similar suggestions for resources within Historic Districts. The level of public interest will inform our approach.

Jake Hoodland: National Trust has a Special Site program. Will investigate and see if that would be helpful.

Commission voted on and approved the following:

1. Kathleen, Jake, and committee to organize public forum on endangered sites for February.
2. Follow up workshop/panel in spring coordinating with Al Cox and the Board of Architectural Review to include historic and archaeological sites recommended during Forum.

Archaeology Museum: Design for Archaeology Museum was discussed briefly. Send additional questions and comments regarding design and layout to Fran Bromberg via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.