

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2016 - FINAL

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II

Members Absent:

Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria
Historical Society
S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage

Members Excused:

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation

Guests:

Diana Bridger, member of public

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

1. Call to Order: The AAC's Chair, Indy McCall, called the meeting to order at 7: 10 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes: Move to accept minutes as amended and Ralph Rosenbaum seconded.

At beginning of meeting Indy introduced guest Diana Bridger, of Christmas Attic. Ms. Bridger is starting studies in Historic Preservation and lives in Fairfax Station.

3. Chair Reports

- **HARC Current status of waterfront implementation:** Ted Pulliam gave an overview to HARC on what the Waterfront Commission has done and current status and plans. HARC is considering its role as an advocate for the Waterfront plan. At its next meeting, HARC will review funding sources and how to approach City Council.

HARC is speaking broadly in terms of historic preservation over the city: Waterfront, museums, etc. HARC discussed urging City Council to find funding for preservation of artifacts and other materials are they are uncovered on the Waterfront. HARC has also advocated for the City-owned Ramsay Homes property, which are planned for demolition. City Council voted to overturn the BAR decision that denied a Demolition permit. The property is located on Route 1. There are plans to tear down the existing 16 units and build 53 high density units. The homes were built as wartime housing for African Americans. They have an unusual style of architecture. Very little of that period is left of any African American neighborhood, particularly Parker Gray neighborhood.

- **Discussion of AAC Strategic Plan and Waterfront History Plan:** Indy proposed that the AAC advocate for implementation of our Waterfront History plan by professionals. The AAC needs to review the original plan, see how it applies to recent archaeological finds, current construction, and proposed construction. We need to identify present gaps in the plan and advocate for a holistic approach to the entire Waterfront. Currently, everything is being done opportunistically. The AAC will advocate on behalf of Alexandria Archaeology's portion of the budget. Motion to: Use our strategic plan to

advocate for two things: 1) propose to City Council that professional design planners be hired and that AAC will put together a plan that can be used as a springboard for the designers to start the process; and 2) find money to make it happen. Motion by Janice Magnuson and seconded by Ralph Rosenbaum. Approved by members.

4. Membership Issues: Indy has a possible candidate to represent the Chamber of Commerce or Planning district 1. Two positions are open.

5. Threatened Sites Committee: Press release being prepared by Kathleen Pepper and it will be sent around by email for review. Meeting with BAR is next week. Need to discuss who in the community can take this project forward.

6. Waterfront Design Discussion:

- **Waterfront Update:** Ted Pulliam. Boat Club moving to new location. Gap of five or six years before plans for Fitzgerald Square are implemented and City Council has asked Olin to plan something for the interim. Flood management also needs to go in there. Old wharf space underneath but no ground disturbance currently planned for the pedestrian plaza area.
- **Old Town North (OTN) (Small Area Plan):** Fran Bromberg. Discussed charrette overview and future task, including fix up canal basin and re-do building and new interpretive signage. OTN wants to go forward with History Plan, but funding uncertain. Lots of information collected during charrette. Volunteers may be needed to complete the history plan. Overall plan has no funding. Need to get a more complete briefing from OTN.
- **Ship Update:** Fran Bromberg. Ship remains were found in water and so need to keep it in similar environment until preservation begins. Need to look for someone to conduct preservation on ship. Tanks with the ship remains are currently located at the DASH bus terminal. This is a temporary stop gap measure. A lot of work to monitor the tanks to ensure mold doesn't grow, etc. Worldwide publicity regarding the ship. It provides a lot of good PR for the City of Alexandria and we need to advocate for it.

What can AAC do now in terms of the Waterfront project as a whole? Need to be better prepared for what comes down the pike. Money for conservation is a big issue.

7. Strategic Plan – 2016-2020: Indy will give a preliminary once over, insert two points and determine what additional work is needed by the commission (see above discussion).

8. Other AAC Committee Reports:

- **Budget Advocacy Committee:** Indy McCall. No action.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Kathleen Pepper, Mary Jane Nugent, Mark Ludlow. One meeting has been held. Can get out in field in March. Discuss committee activities and goals at next meeting.
- **Education Committee:** Inactive, TBD
- **Ben Brenman Award Committee:** Katy Cannady, Janice Magnuson, and Ann Davin, were confirmed as the committee members.

9. Other Planning Updates and Reports:

- **Ad Hoc Combined Sewer System Plan Stakeholder Group - Combined Sewer System Plan:** Indy reported that this committee met once in January and will meet again on Thursday, February 4. City is trying to determine how to handle an over flow of storm water at the overflow points, flooding happens several times a month. Need to design a system that holds the water before it goes into a treatment plant, so overflow happens only occasionally. Locations include Hoofs Run, tunnel very deep under cemeteries, and Royal Street, underground tank or tunnel. Locations of below ground tanks and tunnels, as well as potential for archaeology, to be discussed at February 4 meeting.
- **Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names:** Indy McCall. Group is meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m. First order of business is to review previous public input to see if residents want to address Confederate names and, if so, what they want to do about them. HARC is a member of this advisory group.
- **Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group:** Katy Cannady. Report on Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group presented at December 14, 2015 City Council meeting. Estimate of costs not available. Meeting on Thursday, February 11 to discuss public input on the Metrorail station design.
- **Fort Ward Implementation:** Mary Jane Nugent. Drainage issues discussed at last meeting. Brian Rahal, Transportation & Environmental Services is preparing final report, which will be on view Saturday, January 30 at 1 p.m. The FWI Committee meets tomorrow, January 21. Interpretative Planning Committee to be formed at tomorrow's meeting. Interpretive committee members were put forth for nomination by Lance Mallamo, Director of OHA.
- **Torpedo Factory Art Center Update:** Ralph Rosenbaum. Last meeting discussed organization of the board. Also discussed planning of the 100th anniversary of the building. He volunteered to be on committee that is planning the celebration. Will advertise at National Harbor.
- February AAC meeting is potluck anniversary meeting.

10. Future meeting locations: AAC members decided to ask St. Paul's if we could meet there Wednesday, March 16. It was decided also that the walkabout of Canal would happen at June meeting.

11. Staff Reports/Reminders: Fran Bromberg. Fran announced that a new employee is starting Monday. Eleanor Breen is going to be the supervisor of the lab and collections management. She has extensive experience.

12. Roundtable: NA

13. Record Volunteer Hours

15. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.