

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of March 16, 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)
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria
Historical Society
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II

Members Excused:

Mark Ludlow, Member at Large

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist
Eleanor Breen, Archaeologist

Guests:

Ivy Whitlatch

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

Introduced new Museum staff member: Eleanor Breen

Introduced member of the public: Ivy Whitlatch – possible new member (Planning District 1)

2. Review and Approval of Minutes: Indy proposed a motion to pass the minutes as amended, seconded by Ann Davin, and approved by all.

3. Chair Reports:

HARC: Indy reported that at the last meeting, HARC members discussed that all Alexandria commission members are to avoid conducting virtual meetings through emails. Indy requested that members of the AAC not communicate through emails with open replies or reply all. Please CC Fran Bromberg on all commission-related emails.

Indy discussed future fund raising efforts for the boat preservation. This will include volunteer hours and activities such as Spring2ACTion with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA). The Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) has the money to hire a funding consultant to raise monies.

This evening Ted Pulliam is representing the AAC at the Public Arts Committee where they are discussing various History and Arts projects.

City Strategic Planning: City Council Budget Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 and will include preliminary discussions on the budget for OHA and the Archaeology Museum. Indy will attend the meeting to advocate for money for the Museum staff and report to the Commission on these discussions.

Commission members discussed writing a letter to council thanking them for the \$50,000 contingency fund to respond to unexpected archaeological finds. Commission members discussed the importance of advocating for an annual set aside line item of \$50,000 for unexpected finds, which is particularly important as development of the Waterfront continues. Indy proposed a motion to write a letter to City Council thanking them for \$50,000 contingency fund. Janice seconded the motion and it was approved by all commission members.

4. Membership Issues: Motion was proposed and approved by all that Indy continues as the AAC representative to HARC and that a letter be sent to notify Jackie Henderson, City Clerk. S. Kathleen Pepper's term as a representative to the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage expires on Sunday, April 10 and she is making efforts to renew her appointment.

Currently there are no applicants for the AAC representatives for Business community or Planning District 1.

5. Strategic Plan – 2016-2020: Commission members reviewed changes to the Strategic Plan. After discussion, Point 7 was added to Section IV (Archaeology, History, and Preservation) to promote continued collaboration with the Alexandria Arts Committee and Public Arts Commission. Motion to accept Strategic Plan goals for 2016 – 2017 as amended was proposed by Ann, seconded by Ralph Rosenbaum, and approved by all Commission members.

6. Threatened Sites Committee: The Forum on Threatened Sites was scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 from 6-9 p.m. at The Lyceum. An email was sent out on Thursday to inform the nominators, as well as a press release to the general public, to nominators informing them of the details of the forum. The email included the opportunity for those wishing to speak to pre-register. Members of the public will also be able to register to speak at the meeting. Al Cox has agreed to attend as a staff representative of the Board of Architectural Review. The Event News Release and letter were reviewed by commission members. Indy proposed a motion to approve the time and date of the forum, the issuance of the press release to the public, and the letter to all nominators notifying them of the time and place. Ralph seconded the motion and it was approved by all Commission members.

7. Waterfront Design Discussion:

- Waterfront Design Update – Indy reported that a power point presentation was given on the structure of the governance committee. At the meeting it was proposed that the Waterfront be designated as a special tax district and that business' (not residential properties) would be taxed to ensure a consistent source of money. At this time, the Waterfront Commission is holding off on any final decisions.
- Ship Update – Fran Bromberg reported that Spring2ACTion is a city-wide donation period running from Sunday, March 20 to Wednesday, April 20. All of the Alexandria Museums are working together this year to raise money for one project, SAVE OUR SHIP. Museum staff and volunteers will conduct tours of the ship from Thursday, April 14 – Saturday, April 16 and donations of \$10 per person will be requested. The FOAA page on the website contains information on the tours and how to donate.

With the conservation of the ship going forward, the museum staff is searching for a facility capable of handling such a large object. The preservation process is likely to take six to seven years and will be very costly. It will be necessary to raise most of the money to fund this process.

- Discussion of Waterfront history plan and interpretation on Waterfront – The money will not be coming from the City budget. Need to hire a professional interpreter and do fund raising to support the plan and its interpretation.

8. Other AAC Committee Reports

- **Budget Advocacy Committee** – Indy will attend on Tuesday, April 5 and provide a status report.
- **Cemetery Committee** – Kathleen, Mary Jane Nugent, and Mark Ludlow reported no update on activities. Committee members plan to get together before next AAC meeting.
- **Education Committee** – NA
- **Ben Brenman Award Committee** – Confirmed members are Katy Cannady, Janice Magnuson, and Ann Davin.

9. Other Planning Updates and Reports:

- **Combined Sewer System Plan** – Indy reported that Huntington Creek and Hooffs Run areas were discussed at the last meeting. Discussions included access to the projects and what they will look like. The proposed tank locations at the end of Royal Street (4 possible sites) and along Duke Street contain the most archaeological potential. A walking tour of these locations was suggested.

Proposed construction areas at Oronoco and Pendleton streets, south of Robinson Terminal North, were also discussed. There may be a law suit because of the outflow issue. Oronoco Park may be impacted.

- **Potomac Yard:** Katy reported that the North Potomac Yard small area plan; which includes high rise, commercial, shopping area; has new owners. The new owners have a past history of building luxury condos in Texas. The property owners are supposed to pay for Metro construction, but no update on that issue yet.
- **Confederate Memorials** - Public mike to be held at The Lyceum on Monday, March 28. HARC and ad hoc committee's aim is to be additive rather than subtractive and use history and interpretive information to add to the discussion.
- **Fort Ward Implementation:** Mary Jane reported that the Fort Ward meeting is next week.

- **Fort Ward Interpretive Group** – Mary Jane reported that the Interpretive Group committee met and discussions went fairly well. There was progress on the oral history, archaeology, and drainage plans.
- **Torpedo Factory Art Center Update** – Ralph reported that the meeting date was moved. He has no update.

10. Staff Reports/Reminders - Seth registered as Section 106 consultant for the Ramsay Housing project. Not yet confirmed as to our status.

11. Record Volunteer Hours

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.