

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of September 21, 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
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
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
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I

Members Absent:

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

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, Archaeologist
Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

1. Call to order: The AAC's Chair, Indy McCall, called the meeting to order at 7: 12 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Ralph Rosenbaum, seconded by Ted Pulliam, and approved by all members.

3. Chair Reports: The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation awarded the City of Alexandria \$900,000.00 towards the purchase the Reeder House located at 517 Prince Street. Joe Reeder will donate his equity and OHA is working on raising the remaining \$350,000 to complete the purchase. The Reeder House will be considered an official City museum.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names: Indy reported that the advisory group submitted its final report to City Council on August 16 with four recommendations. While the report recommended leaving the Appomattox statute in its current location on South Washington and adding context to its story, the City Council decided to move the statue, possibly next to the Lyceum. The statue belongs to the United Daughters of the Confederacy and they are not likely to approve the move. In addition, the State Legislature would need to pass a law to allow the move. The AAC discussed drafting a letter to City Council, the Alexandria Times, and the Alexandria Gazette, stating that while we don't support the ideals of the Confederacy, we don't support erasing history. Motion to write the letter made by Ivy Whitlatch and Janice Magnuson, Katy Cannady seconded, and the motion was approved by commission members.

Historic Alexandria Resources Committee: Indy announced that she was elected vice- chair of HARC. HARC is planning a retreat in January to discuss its future direction. By then, the AAC will know the direction the two commissions can take to work together in revamping the city-wide Preservation Plan.

Archaeology Museum Re-Design: Fran Bromberg reported that discussions are on-going regarding the budget for the first phase of the museum re-design. Gretchen Bulova has been

helping to get funding for the Archaeology Museum. Additional funding should be requested for implementing the history plan of the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

The AAC members discussed the need to start lobbying City Council on behalf of the Waterfront History Plan. An important step will be a Work Session with City Council where we can present our ideas and concerns: 1. Need to budget money for a professional consultant to envision the historical trail along the waterfront; and 2. Need a location for the archaeological finds that are recovered as the Waterfront development progresses. An important issue is where to put the ship after conservation is completed, particularly as it has to be in a controlled environment. The warehouse remains can be located outside under a protected shelter. Kathleen Pepper made a motion, seconded by Janice and approved by commission members, for Indy to write a letter to Council requesting a Work Session with City Council.

4. Membership Issue: Fran said that the status of the terms for the entire commission will be discussed at the October meeting. Ralph's first term is up in January 2017. Rebecca Siegel will not be moving away, so there is no need to find a candidate for Planning District II.

5. Slate of Officers: AAC decided to keep the slate of officers for another year. Kathleen so moved, Janice seconded and motion was approved by commission members.

6. Final Approval of Annual Report FY2016 with Strategic Plan: Tabled until October meeting.

7. Ben Brenman Awards Committee: A majority of the committee members proposed that representatives of Carr Hospitality, the Naval Command and Research, and Thunderbird Archaeology be the recipients of the 2016 Brenman Awards. The motion to approve these nominations was made by Ann Davin and seconded by Ivy and approved by a majority of the commission members. The awards will be presented at City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 5.

8. Waterfront Design Discussion:

Waterfront Update: The Waterfront Commission met with Ken Wire, who represents IDI Group, the developers of 211 Strand Street. They are proposing to construct 16 residential units and retail on the street level.

Robinson Terminal South: The only previously existing building remaining is the administration building.

Robinson Terminal North: Cost analysis determined that it was not economically feasible to build a hotel at this time.

The Waterfront Flood Mitigation project will include documentary research including deeds and ownership information, along the flood mitigation area.

10. Other AAC Committee Reports:

Ship update: Responses to the RFP for the ship's conservation are being reviewed. Museum staff is discussing plans for fundraising to help cover the costs of the conservation.

11. Other Planning Updates and Reports (as needed):

Cemetery Committee: Barbara Magid, Office of Historic Alexandria Staff, and Gerry Dineris, Web Developer, Office of Communications and Public Information, have reviewed the survey form and determined it is feasible. Ivy is finalizing the form. There is a need to determine which cemeteries are to be included in the survey. The City owns and maintains approximately 8, but there may be more. Plan now is to get inexpensive computer tablets and format them for use by the volunteers.

Fort Ward: Mary Jane Nugent reported that the RFP for the Interpretative Plan of Fort Ward was sent to the Purchasing Division.

Torpedo Factory: Torpedo Factory Art Center Board disbanded this evening. There may be another meeting for the legal closing of the 501C-3.

12. Member Reports:

FOAA: No updates on FOAA. Indy and Rebecca are in discussions on ways to expand the board.

13. Staff Reports/Reminders: Eleanor Breen reported on upcoming Java Jolts lectures: on Saturday, October 15 there will be a talk on “The Octagon House,” by Julia Claypool and on Saturday, October 22, Mark Ludlow will present “Archaeology Surrounding Major General Braddock's 4th Encampment at Little Meadows Maryland.”

14. Roundtable: At the Historical Society on Wednesday, September 28, there will be a lecture by Krystyn Moon on the history of Arlandria. On Tuesday, November 1, there will be a special lecture by Lance Mallamo entitled ‘Rest on Embalmed and Sainted Dead’ at the 19th-century vault at the historic Ivy Hill Cemetery.

15. Record Volunteer Hours

16. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Ann, and Janice seconded the motion.