

Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
Minutes of November 14, 2018 Meeting

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large  
(Chair)  
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Vice  
Chair)  
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association  
(Secretary)  
Dylan Colligan, Business Community  
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large  
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large  
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III  
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria  
Archaeology

Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large  
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

**Members Absent:**

Georgia (Katy) Canady, Alexandria  
Historical Society, Excused  
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria  
Foundation, Excused  
Esther White, Planning District II, Excused

**Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

**Call to Order:**

Indy called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

September Minutes – Motion to approve changes to the minutes moved by Ralph Rosenbaum and seconded by Mark Ludlow and approved by all.

October Minutes – Motion to approve changes to the minutes was made by Ralph and seconded by Janice Magnuson and approved by all.

**2019 Calendar:**

There is no conflict regarding meeting dates with Thanksgiving or Christmas in 2019. Commission members scheduled a summer walk-about for the June meeting and earmarked August for a possible second walk-about. Will discuss destinations at December's meeting.

**Chair Reports – Elizabeth (Indy) McCall:**

HARC Update: Indy McCall reported that at the meeting on Tuesday, November 13, HARC's members discussed the renovations at 619 South Lee Street and the open space easement held by the State of Virginia that is included in the deed. Old Town Civic and HARC are concerned about the impacts of the plans and the lack of communication from the State. HARC and HAF advocacy committees will meet Friday, December 14 to have a look at the final design.

Because of the historic nature of the house, the owners of the Hugo Black House have volunteered to hire an archaeologist before construction begins..

Interim Park Naming Process: AAC discussed the names drafted for the Interim Park Naming at the AAC meeting on Tuesday, November 6 .

Mark Ludlow recommended that AAC keep the top three names: Seaport Park, Fitzgerald Square, and Ships Landing (not Park) with the caveat that naming the park Fitzgerald Square is

complicated because of the slavery issue; however, it provides the opportunity to fully explore the past and educate the public about Alexandria's history.

On a motion by Mark Ludlow and seconded by Ralph Rosenbaum, AAC voted to submit the three names and add the caveat regarding the Fitzgerald Square. All commission members voted yes, with the exception of Ivy Whitlatch, who voted no.

Torpedo Factory: On Tuesday, November 6, Mark Jinks sent out a letter stating that he was recommending that the Office of the Arts continue and remain as the managing entity for the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The letter also addressed the need for significant capital investment to meet the future needs of the Torpedo Factory. AAC members noted that the letter did not reference the Archaeology Museum or that the Torpedo Factory is an historic building.

On a motion by Ralph Rosenbaum and seconded by Dylan Colligan and agreed to by all AAC members, Indy McCall will write a letter to Mark Jinks requesting that discussions of future plans for the Torpedo Factory include the following:

- a) OHA to be included in the future renovation discussions;
- b) additional space for artifacts be discussed; and
- c) as the Torpedo Factory is an historic building, that BAR review be considered.

City Council meeting is this Saturday, November 17 at 9:30 a.m. The Torpedo Factory is item #8 on the docket and Ivy Whitlatch and Dylan Colligan plan to attend and speak.

Combined BARS: The proposed consolidation of the Old and Historic Alexandria and Parker Grey districts involves a new board that should include more professional standards for members. AAC members feel they need more information before weighing in on the new board's composition.

**Planning Updates and Reports (as needed):**

Ship Committee: Ivy Whitlatch reported that the results of the survey seeks to understand how the community feels about the ships may come out shortly, but committee members may wait until January to release to the public.

Robinson Terminal South: Eleanor Breen reported that EYA and Hotel Indigo promoted two walking tours of the Robinson Terminal South (RTS) area. One tour ended at the hotel, while the EYA tour ended at a model home which EYA used as a showcase to illustrate the intersection of archaeology, history and street naming. EYA and the City of Alexandria recently received the "Culture Builds Community" award from Partners for Livable Communities.

Eleanor Breen reported that Thunderbird Archaeology drones have flown in the old Alexandria bus warehouse showing where and how the ship timbers are stored.

Eleanor reported that the limited excavations at 211 Strand found foundations of several warehouses within the very small impact areas (14-inch narrow pilings with 4 feet deep caps).

RiverRenew: RiverRenew is forming a 13-member citizens committee which currently does not include a member from the history community. AAC members decided to write a memo to Mark Jinks and RiverRenew requesting that we have a representative on the committee.

African American Trail Committee: Indy McCall reported that Committee members were led on a tour of the southern portion of the proposed trail by Archaeologist Benjamin Skolnik with Alexandria Archaeology. Members found that there were a number of opportunities for additional interpretation along the side streets and these will be added to the plan.

Fort Ward: Stakeholders Meeting discussing the Interpretive Plan is planned for Saturday, November 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF): Annual meeting is Saturday evening, November 17, with wine tasting and a silent auction. HAF will be highlighting the ships.

Ramsay Homes: Eleanor reported that archaeological investigations did not locate any structures or significant historic materials in the project area.

2018 Landscape Design Update: The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is having a public hearing on Friday, November 16, where it will present the 2018 Landscape Design Update will be presented to the public.

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Members are meeting Saturday, December 15 to elect new board members.

AAC Potluck Holiday Party is Wednesday, December 19.

### **Record Volunteer Hours**

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. made by Ralph Rosenbaum and seconded by Jake Hoogland and agreed to by all members.