

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)**  
Minutes of September 16, 2020 Meeting

**Members Present:**

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)  
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)  
Ann Davin, Member at Large (Secretary)  
Dylan Colligan, Business Community  
Mark Ludlow, Member at large  
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III  
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria  
Archaeology  
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association  
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation  
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large

**Members Excused:**

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large- unexcused

**City Staff:**

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist  
Emma Richardson, Museum Education  
Specialist, Alexandria Archaeology

**Call to Order:** Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, February 19, 2020 minutes. Ann Davin moved to accept the minutes as amended, Janice Magnuson seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

**Chair Reports:**

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC)

Ivy Whitlatch updated AAC members on certain HARC meeting items:

- status of the redevelopment of the Towne Motel at 800 N. Washington Street;
- the withdrawal of the developer from the Christ Church project at Ross Dress for Less on King Street;
- the direction of the 5G Antennas designs to minimally impact the landscape. HARC has decided to forgo future involvement in the 5G antennas project; and
- The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) has approved the demolition of the Heritage Apartments, but not a new design.

**Approval of Annual Report:**

Eleanor Breen reported that the City of Alexandria has adopted a template for annual reports and requested that commissions standardize their reports based on this template.

AAC members reviewed and discussed the draft annual report. Eleanor and Ivy will amend the draft based on recommendations made by AAC members.

Mark Ludlow moved to approve the Annual Report, as it will be amended, Ted Pulliam seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

**Election of Officers:**

Ivy suggested that a nominating committee be formed to recommend both new officers and identify potential new members of the AAC. Ivy suggested that the Community Engagement Committee may be a good starting point for this process.

AAC members decided write letters the board of Visit Alexandria VA, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and the Alexandria Historical Society, to formally request a representative from each organization.

Mark Ludlow moved that the elections of the AAC officers be postponed until a nominating committee can be formed. Ralph Rosenbaum seconded the motion and all AAC members agreed.

**Ben Brenman Awards:**

AAC has postponed the Ben Brenman Awards for 2020 due to Covid-19.

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

The following items were reported by Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

- Alexandria Archaeology staff will present regular updates to AAC, perhaps on a quarterly basis, on new permits, collections status, acquisitions, and other relevant developments.
- African American Heritage Trail Committee – The northern portion of Alexandria’s African American trail is complete and there will be an announcement next week regarding the opening of the new Website and presentation of the signage.

**African American Civil Rights Network:**

Seth Tinkham proposed that the AAC nominate historic sites/locations within the City to the African American Civil Rights Network, starting with the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial. The City Council will need to approve AAC proceeding with the application. The Office of Historic Alexandria and the Society for the Preservation Black History have been informed regarding the potential nomination. Letters from the City Manager and the AAC will be needed for the nomination application.

The African American Civil Rights Network is a nation-wide list established by the Park Service. Inclusion of Freedmen Cemetery and other sites/properties will elevate Alexandria’s role in America’s Civil Rights history. Richard Owens made a motion in support of nominating Freedmen Cemetery to the African American Civil Rights Network, Ralph Rosenbaum seconded, and all members agreed.

**FOAA:**

Richard updated the AAC on the Thursday, August 20, virtual FOAA meeting. There was an election of the new board of officers with Christine Hines voted in as President.

The next FOAA virtual meeting will be Saturday, September 26.

**Staff Reports:**

The Archaeology museum will be opened on a limited basis on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The new main exhibit is titled ‘Preserving Alexandria’s Maritime Heritage.’

Eleanor reported that Alexandria Historical Society is launching its Fall lecture series on Thursday, September 24, with a talk by Benjamin Skolnik of Alexandria Archaeology, titled ‘Cartography of a Port City.’

#### October events to celebrate Virginia’s Archaeology Month

- Emma Richardson reported that Alexandria Archaeology will be posting 2 minute “behind the scenes” videos every Friday on Facebook and also on the City website.
- Home school archaeology event at the Lee Fendell House, on Friday, October 16, with Archaeology and Lee-Fendell House museum staff.

#### **Record Volunteer Hours**

#### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. made by Ralph Rosenbaum, seconded by Janice Magnuson, and agreed to by all members.

Wednesday, October 21 will be the next virtual AAC meeting date.