

**Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)**  
Minutes of December 16, 2020 Virtual 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  
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large  
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large  
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III (by phone)  
Richard (Dick) 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

**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 7:04 p.m.

**Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice for the City of Alexandria** by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Emma Richardson.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, November 18 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ted Pulliam seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

**Chair Report:**

- **HARC (Historic Alexandria Resources Commission)** - Ivy reported that there were no new updates.
- **Alexandria Archaeology Support Committee** - Dick Owens reported that there were no new updates.
- **Community Outreach Committee** – Mark Ludlow reported that there were no new updates.
- **Civic Engagement Committee** - Dylan Colligan and Jake Hoogland were tasked with assessing the viability of initiating a Del Pepper Award for supporting and advocating for archaeology/history in the City of Alexandria along with continuing the Ben Brenman Award. The committee is to determine whether there is a need for two awards and if so, to draft criteria for each. All AAC members agreed to this proposal.

**Membership Update:**

- **Visit Alexandria** - Ivy reported contacting Patricia Washington and Kate Ellis of Visit Alexandria to see who on their Board of Governors would be interested in joining the AAC.
- **Alexandria Historical Society** – Ivy reported that Audrey Davis of the Alexandria Historical Society informed her that a board member, Chris Warren, expressed interest in being a

representative to the AAC. This position is vacant due to the retirement of Georgia (Katy) Cannady.

- McArthur Myers also has been asked as to whether he might know of a possible representative from the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, but has not yet responded.

### **AAC Meeting Calendar**

Eleanor reviewed the 2021 monthly calendar of events with the AAC members.

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

- Waterfront Update
  - a. Ships/Waterfront Archaeology Update – Eleanor reported that weather conditions for the Navy History Command’s underwater survey of the shoreline from the foot of King Street to Duke Street were not optimal and the team will return for a second look at a later date.
  - b. Waterfront Commission- Mark reported on a presentation by Matthew Landes, (PLA, ISA Department of Project Implementation, Division Chief) on new approaches to dealing with nuisance flooding along Alexandria’s waterfront. New solutions have been developed since the existing flood mitigation plan was developed 10 years ago.

Mark’s term is up Friday, February 12, 2021. Ted moved and Ralph seconded Mark’s re-nomination to the Waterfront Commission. All AAC members agreed.

- c. African American Heritage Trail Committee – Eleanor reported that the committee meeting is tomorrow morning, Thursday, December 17, and work continues on the southern portion of the trail.
- d. Torpedo Factory Vibrancy Plan – Ivy, Ted and Ralph attended the virtual Community input meeting on the action plan. Ted submitted the AAC’s responses to the action plan regarding the history of the building and importance of the Archaeology Museum, which were not part of the draft plan.

Ivy asked if a letter should be drafted to City Council summarizing AAC’s responses to the action plan.

A motion was made that Ivy will draft a letter to City Council, with FOAA, outlining the commission’s thoughts on the plan: 1) preservation of the historic nature of the Torpedo Factory; and 2) the important role the Archaeology Museum plays in attracting visitors. Esther White moved to accept this motion, Mark seconded and all AAC members agreed.

- e. River Renew – Ivy reported that there were no new updates.
- Archaeology Protection Code Updates – Eleanor will present quarterly updates at the February meeting.

### **African American Civil Rights Network Nomination**

Seth Tinkham and Eleanor reported that a presentation was made at the Tuesday, November 24 City Council meeting on the nomination of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery to the National Park

Service African American Civil Rights Network. The nomination was approved by City Council. The draft nomination is being revised by Fran Bromberg and the final will be presented to the City Manager and City Council and then submitted to the National Park Service.

### **FOAA Update**

Richard reported that the last FOAA meeting was on Thursday, December 12 and the annual Alexandria Archaeology volunteer appreciation party will be on Friday, January 22, 2021.

### **Staff Reports:**

- Wednesday, January 20 – Next AAC meeting is cancelled due to the Inauguration Day, a national holiday.
- Eleanor reported on recent Museum staff presentations to the community and gave a summary of staff papers to be presented at the Society for Historic Archaeology 2021 (virtual) annual meeting in January.
- The Ramsay Homes (virtual) public symposium is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2021.

### **Record Volunteer Hours**

### **Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.