

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of February 17, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Registration URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsZHf9pgTJG29clEEDFmHg

Meeting/Webinar ID: 922 1607 7097

Meeting/Webinar Password: 431483

Dial-in number: 301-715-8592

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
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

Members Absent:

Janice Magnuson, Planning District III

City Staff:

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

Public:

Christopher Warren
Tammi Gilliams
Geri Knight-Iske

Call to Order: Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the February 17th meeting of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at the Lloyd House at 220 N. Washington, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the link or phone number posted on the City calendar. Public comment will be received at the meeting by stating name and comment. Questions can be submitted to the committee through the Q&A feature on Zoom. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the alexandriava.gov/historic webpage. Zoom is compatible with assistive technologies such as screen readers and keyboard shortcuts.

Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, December 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Mark Ludlow moved to accept the minutes as amended, Esther White seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

Chair Report:

- Ivy noted that 2021 is the 46th anniversary of the AAC.
- HARC (Historic Alexandria Resources Commission) – Ivy reported no new relevant topics.
- Janice Magnuson, Planning District III, sent a note saying that she was not going to renew for another term on the AAC. Janice’s term is up in May.
- Ivy introduced the three visitors: Chris Warren, who has made an application to join AAC as a representative of the Alexandria Historical Society; Tammie Gilliams is a volunteer at the Veterans Museum and is involved in veterans’ organizations in Alexandria (left at 8). Geri Knight-Iske is senior archaeologist at Stell, an infrastructure, energy, and environmental consulting firm.
- Alexandria Archaeology Support Committee – Dick Owens had no updates this month.
- Community Outreach Committee – Eleanor and Ivy discussed how the AAC cannot really celebrate our 46th anniversary, but the 50th is coming up in 2025. AAC should start thinking about how to celebrate this important milestone. Seth mentioned that 2026 is the national semi-quincentennial and it would be good to plug into that as well.
- Civic Engagement Committee – Jake Hoogland and Dylan Colligan are planning to meet regarding a possible Del Pepper award, which would be separate from the Ben Brenman award.

Membership Update:

- Eleanor gave a presentation at Visit Alexandria. This was followed up with thank-yous, but no word back if any members would like to be the representative to the AAC.
- Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, no word yet.
- Janice Magnuson, Planning District III, is resigning from the AAC.

Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

- Waterfront Updates
 - a. Ships/Waterfront Archaeology Update: Eleanor Breen presented a summary of the following items:
 - new signage in front of Torpedo Factory for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and two new signs at foot of King Street regarding Waterfront history
 - Freedom House- Smith Group conducting an historic structures study combining historic research and archaeology. A first-floor exhibit to be created
 - African American Heritage Trail, South Trail portion - update on continuing research
 - b. Waterfront Commission: Mark Ludlow announced that he had been reappointed to the Waterfront Commission.
 - c. Action Plan for Vibrancy and Sustainability Plan for the Torpedo Factory – is on the docket for the Saturday, February 27 City Council meeting. As our comments were not reflected in the packet submitted by the Action Plan group to City Council, a letter (drafted by Ivy/Ted Pulliam/Ralph Rosenbaum) was submitted to the docket. Ted moved that Ivy participate at the City Council meeting to voice our concerns to the plan. Esther White seconded the motion and all AAC members agreed.
- Proposed 2022 Operating Budget: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget included the Office of Historic Alexandria. The OHA general budget included funds to make Benjamin Skolnik’s Archaeologist position full-time at the Archaeology Museum
- Archaeology Protection Code Updates: Eleanor Breen – no updates this month.

African American Civil Rights Network Nomination: Draft is being finalized and it will then be sent to the City Manager with a letter requesting permission to submit the nomination to the National Park Service.

Land Acknowledgment: A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. The City of Alexandria is in the process of drafting its own statement, as many universities, municipalities, museums, etc. have already done. AAC members reviewed and commented on the draft statement. AAC members were asked to send any comments to Eleanor, who will update us next month. The website is www.native-land.ca.

FOAA Update: Richard Owens - no updates this month. The next meeting is in March.

Staff Reports:

Wednesday, March 17 is the date of the next meeting.

Record Volunteer Hours

Public Comment

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 9 p.m. Ann moved to adjourn the meeting, Ralph seconded, all AAC members agreed.