

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of September 19, 2018 Meeting

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association (Secretary)
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

Esther White, Planning District II

Members Absent:

Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria Historical
Society
Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by AAC's Chair, Indy McCall at 7:04 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

Review and Approval of Minutes July and August

Motion by Mark Ludlow and seconded by Dick Owens to accept July minutes as amended.

Motion by Ivy Whitlatch and seconded by Mark to accept August minutes as amended. All AAC members approved the amendments to the July and August minutes.

Dylan Colligan has been accepted by City Council as a new member of the AAC as a representative of the Business Community.

Presentation of Slate and Election of Officers

Nominations Committee: Ted Pulliam announced that the current AAC officers have accepted re-nominations and will serve another year.

Motion by Mark that nominations be closed, was seconded by Janice Magnuson. Motion made by Mark to accept all nominations, was seconded by Esther White.

All AAC members approved the above motions.

Chair Reports

HARC Update: Indy reported that Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) elections occurred at the last meeting. Indie will co-Chair with Danny Smith while Maddy McCoy will serve as Vice Chair and Steve Stuart, as Secretary.

No announcement from the City Manager on who will be the new Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA). The search process is complete, and interviews are ongoing.

City Budget News: HARC received a letter from Mark Jinks, the City Manager, asking for input for fiscal year 2020 by Friday, October 26. HARC will collaborate drafting a letter with the Alexandria Archaeology staff regarding the priorities for the budget. Indy's discussions with Eleanor Breen and

Maddy have included the need to raise the professional status of the Archaeology staff and the large amount of available scholarly research.

Alexandria Archaeology is nearly fully staffed. The only vacant position is the 20-hour-a-week Museum Technician who is paid out of the Department of Code Administration budget. Eleanor would like to have a public lab tech position created for the Archaeology Museum and hopes that position can be incorporated into the budget. Eleanor said that as OHA contemplates a re-organization, there should be a move from the part-time to full-time professional positions.

At the October meeting AAC will discuss priorities for the current budget and draft a response to the Mark Jinks' letter, which is due Friday, October 26. AAC response to the City Manager's letter should also include proposals for the ships and reference to the maritime museum. The City is beginning to do a priority-based budgeting model along with the regular budgeting process. This new process may not affect anything this year.

Indy reported that Gretchen Bulova, Acting Director of OHA, is in discussions with the Department of Project Implementation (DPI) on the priorities for the Interim King Street Park and the temporary history installations. She is also working with the DPI and Mitch Bernstein (Director) as to how to structure the more long-term Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding for the Waterfront History Interpretation Plan. AAC may make assisting with this a priority task. Gretchen also is drafting a strategic plan for OHA, on which AAC also will have input, as will HARC.

AAC will also discuss the larger issue of ship funding outside the scope of the City and the need for a Capital Funds Director to raise money for the ships and the museums.

The Ships will be a separate budget item involving the multi-year CIP money. The ship funding may be like that for Fort Ward Interpretive Plan, which receives CIP funding at various stages of the project. Alexandria Archaeology staff will contract out much of work needed to complete the various projects related to the ships, such as documentation, 3D modeling, etc.

Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

Waterfront History Plan Implementation Advisory Committee: Indy will update AAC on the status at next month's meeting.

Waterfront Commission: Ted reported on the new development at 211 Strand Street called Watermark Condominiums. Development will include three ground floor retail shops with condos on top. The developers are planning to conduct archaeological investigations in mid-October, with construction to start in January 2019. The building will have a "normal" basement, no underground garage.

Ted reported that the Waterfront Commission received a presentation on the first temporary art installation for the Interim Waterfront /King Street Park. It is a light-oriented design based on the Jones Point lighthouse and will include some historic interpretation.

Ted reported that the Commission also discussed City Council's appointment of a Naming Committee (Committee of Council) for the interim park. Their goal is to gather public input and present the results to City Council. Indy reported that committee met a few days ago, but still in formative stage. Members will be drawn from across City departments.

Ship Committee: Esther reported that the survey presented and approved in July by AAC is being moved up City channels by Eleanor. Currently the committee is working on a matrix for evaluating

different criteria (education, preservation, etc.) with different dispositions (storage and display options) for the ships. The final report is in process of being completed.

Eleanor added that a variety of City agencies are reviewing the technical aspects regarding temporary storage options for the ships to preserve them for future study and/or display.

Robinson Terminal South (RTS) Update: Eleanor reported that Thunderbird Archaeology is getting ready to excavate Ship #3 along Wolf Street. A support system needs to be constructed all around the proposed parking garage before excavations begin. The portion of Ship #3 located in the garage area will be excavated, while the part under Wolf Street will remain in situ.

Eleanor reported that a professional model maker, Glenn Grieco, Texas A&M University, used individually laser scanned timbers of the Indigo Ship and produced a 3D model. Then wood and steel wire were used to reconstruct the likely skeleton of the complete ship. This 3D model can be used to interpret and extrapolate the full ship and raise interest in the ships and help in fund raising.

RiverRenew: Seth Tinkham is going to the Tuesday, September 25 open house meeting for the sewer project. Different meetings are going on, with open houses occurring to discuss different options.

Fort Ward: Eleanor reported that the third of four proposed Stakeholders meetings was held last week. There will be one more meeting and then the implementation of the interpretive plan begins.

Ben Brenman Awards: Construction of awards by Ann Davin and Janice Magnuson was scheduled for Saturday, September 29 at 10 a.m. at the Archaeology Museum.

Member Reports

FOAA update: Dick Owens reported that the President resigned for personal reasons and that Paula Whitacre would take over as interim President.

Staff Reports/Reminders

- New Curator -Tatiana Niculescu
- Saturday, September 22, Archaeology Workshop, Shuter's Hill
- October is Archaeology Month
- Friday-Sunday, October 12-14, Godspeed and Waterfront Archaeology Festival
- Saturday, October 20, Portside History: Archaeology

Record Volunteer Hours

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mark and seconded by Seth. Agreed to by all members.