

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

for

FISCAL YEAR 2006

SUMMARY

The Commission had another very active year pursuing its three-fold mission of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historical resources as they arose regarding issues involving development, the natural and historic environment, transportation, economy/tourism, diversity of community, and efficient, community-oriented government.

During Fiscal Year 2006, the AAC was involved in:

- Discussing and making recommendations regarding Jones Point and its significant archaeological and historic resources;
- Recommending changes to Alexandria's Strategic Plan to incorporate goals and objectives related to the "History" Principle;
- Developing an electronic AAC "tool kit" of information and resources for state and local governments, or other interested persons and organizations, interested in developing a community-based preservation, archaeology, or history program;
- Discussing issues concerning the Alexandria waterfront;
- Participating and discussing activities related to the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration; and
- Participating in the Alexandria Economic Summit.

STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC or Commission) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on matters relating to the City's archaeological resources and related issues within the City. Included among the AAC's responsibilities are the establishment of goals and priorities which contribute to the history and heritage of colonial, federal and historic Alexandria; propose local ordinances and state statutes to the City Council and the City Manager which promote the goals and aims embodied in Ordinance No. 3733; plan, develop and recommend short-, mid- and long-term archaeological plans and programs for the City; encourage the integration of archaeological and historical information and site preservation into master plans and development efforts; study and make recommendations to City Council with respect to additional activities involving the City's archaeological program and artifacts; promote the use of the highest professional standards by Alexandria Archaeology staff; and enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States and the world.

AAC meetings are held at least 10 times per year, on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or occasionally at other sites of interest to the Commission. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five (5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the City's three planning districts and six (6) members representing various City organizations.

Elections are held in October of each year. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Due to changes in membership and elections, persons serving on the Commission may be listed in more than one representative or leadership capacity. The Commission welcomed new member Adron Krekeler during the year. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of Fiscal Year 2005.

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Ann Davin
S. Kathleen Pepper, Chair
Pete Petersen
Tim Peterson
Ted Pulliam
Bill Tabor

PLANNING DISTRICT MEMBERS:

Planning District I: Lillie Finklea
Planning District II: Donald Kent, Jr.
Planning District III: Janice Magnuson

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Alexandria Association: Diane Riker
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Adron Krekeler
Alexandria Historical Society: Bill Tabor, Secretary
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Samuel Lang
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Sandra Nail, Vice-Chair
Historic Alexandria Foundation: Walter Hall

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

The Commission recommends that:

- Continued active involvement in proposals involving the Alexandria Waterfront, which contains several historic structures;
- Working with other City organizations or groups which are interested in historic preservation and the waterfront for greater co-ordination on issues concerning the waterfront;
- A “people’s history” of the waterfront be prepared which would provide a brief history of the waterfront in an easy to read format so that all persons involved in any discussion of the development of the waterfront are aware of the history of the area so that history can be meaningfully incorporated into any discussion of development plans;
- Incorporating archaeological and historic resources into discussions and planning involving tourism and economic development;
- Small Area Plans and development of parks or open space within the City reference and incorporate the history within the boundaries of the Small Area Plans, parks, or open space so that the City’s past becomes a living, visible part of the present and future.
- Funding the general maintenance and capital improvements budget for the City’s historic properties be at a level to ensure responsible stewardship of the properties, which will attract and retain visitors to the properties and the City.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission actively worked on a variety of activities that supported the City of Alexandria 2004-2015 Strategic Plan:

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Alexandria Strategic Plan: The Commission wrote two letters to City Council, talked with individual City Council members, and spoke at a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the City's Strategic Plan which would add goals and objectives for the "History" Principle to the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was ultimately modified by the City Council to include virtually all of the Commission's recommendations regarding history and preservation related goals and objectives.

The Waterfront: The Commission invited Ms. Susan Petty, Chair of the Waterfront Committee, to speak with members regarding issues affecting the waterfront, including open space, passive recreation use, historic preservation, and interpretative signage. The Commission discussed the several historic structures that remain on the south side of the waterfront. Alexandria Archaeology interns and volunteers continue working on researching the history of the waterfront area.

Small Area Plans & Potomac Yards Development: Members of the AAC attended the public meetings on the proposed revisions of the Braddock Metro Area Small Area Plan, as well as the proposed further development of Potomac Yards as these areas include sites or structures of historical importance.

THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Open Space: A member of the Commission sits on the Open Space Committee and provided input to that committee regarding issues involving archaeology, history, and preservation as related to open space.

Jones Point: The AAC wrote to City Council, and spoke at public hearings in favor of a tri-partite plan which preserved the southern portion of the park for passive uses due to the significant historic and archaeological resources in that portion of the park, reserved the northern end of the park for passive environment enjoyment, and placed immediately north of the bridge, two full-sized multi-purpose athletic fields.

ECONOMY/TOURISM

Historic Sites Maintenance Budget: In November, members of the Commission attended an Historic Sites Maintenance Retreat sponsored by the Historic Area Resources Commission (HARC). The AAC also wrote a letter to City Council and spoke at public hearings

recommending funding for the City's historic properties in the general maintenance and capital improvements budget.

Preservation Summit: The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission and other Alexandria history organizations plan to host a Preservation Summit. The AAC provided suggestions for issues and speakers for the Summit through Alexandria Archaeology and through its representative on HARC.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration: The AAC discussed having a lecture series as part of Alexandria's participation in the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration. Alexandria activities for this are being coordinated by the Historic Area Resources Commission. Suggested topics included the Archaeology of Jamestown, African-Americans and Early Virginia, John Smith's Voyage up the Potomac, and Native Americans. A lecture series was approved. The resulting lecture series is being co-sponsored, in part, by Alexandria Archaeology and the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. The first of the five lectures was held on May 24, 2006, at the Lyceum and feature Dr. Dennis Pogue, Associate Director, Mount Vernon, talking about "Seventeenth Century Virginia Beyond Jamestown: What Have We Learned Since 1957?"

The Commission also supported hosting the "Godspeed" and related activities in May and June 2006 as the kickoff of the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration. The AAC wrote to City Council and spoke at a public hearing on this issue.

Freedmen's Cemetery: Commission member Lillie Finklea was featured on a Discovery Channel television show on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In the program, Ms. Finklea talked about the Freedmen's Cemetery and the work (historical, archaeological, and oral history) that is being conducted on the site.

EFFICIENT, COMMUNITY-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT

Informational "Tool Kit: Following up on an enumerated goal from the last fiscal year, the AAC discussed the development of an electronic "toolkit" that individuals, organizations, and government entities can access to learn more about the creation, function, and usefulness of a community-based archaeological board or commission which assists a local or state government in issues regarding archaeology. This "tool kit" would be made available through the Alexandria Archaeology website. It would be based on the information that the AAC provided in the past two or three years to interested government officials, community groups, and individuals, such as state officials from Delaware, as well as from local government officials from Frederick, Maryland, and from Prince William and Arlington Counties, Virginia.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Plan: The AAC began development of a 10-year strategic plan for the Commission as such a plan will help the Commission to more effectively fulfill its mission, identify potential areas or issues of concern, and respond to on-

going and proposed actions and activities within the City. The AAC's strategic plan will be structured to complement the City's strategic plan.

Board of Architectural Review: City Council member Andrew Macdonald sought the opinion of the City's history related commissions regarding the process by which Boards of Architectural Review (BAR) applicants are appointed by City Council and how preservation or history groups or organizations might comment on those applicants. The Commission discussed this issue at length. The AAC wrote to Councilman Macdonald, with copies to the other City Council members. In that letter the Commission made two recommendations: first, that the application form be modified to request BAR applicants to indicate, with specificity, their preservation, history, or archaeological background and state whether such experience or education is professional or personal, and relate this experience or education to the position being sought; and two, that City Council consider whether the BAR might better meet the needs of the City and its residents if at least one member of each BAR is required to have experience in preservation, history, or archaeology.

Alexandria Economic Summit: Members of the AAC attended the City's Economic Summit in January as representatives of the Commission. Both participated in the Tourism and Visitors roundtable discussion. Chair Kathleen Pepper was selected to present the issues and recommendations of one the sub-groups.

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
GOALS FOR FY 2007**

- Participate in City hearings and seminars that impact archaeological and historic resources either directly through development or indirectly through short- or long-term planning.
- Finalize a strategic plan for the Alexandria Archaeological Commission that will operate as a planning tool so that the Commission can work more effectively in identifying areas and issues of concern, responding to on-going and proposed actions and activities in the City, and fulfilling its mission.
- Identify and address archaeological and historic preservation issues concerning the waterfront, including participation in any fora or hearings regarding proposals for the waterfront.