

Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2015 – FINAL

**Members Present:**

Vincent LaPointe, Planning District I (Chair)  
Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large  
(Vice Chair)  
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria  
Historical Society  
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II  
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III  
S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the  
Preservation of Black Heritage  
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large  
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large  
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large  
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria  
Foundation

Ellen Hamilton, Chamber of Commerce  
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large

**Members Absent:**

Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria  
Archaeology

**Guests:**

Ann Davin – Applied for Alexandria  
Association Representative  
Dean Paris, Project Director, Paris Design

**City Staff:**

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

This meeting was held in the museum section of Gatsby's Tavern. Fran opened the meeting by introducing Dean Paris of Paris Design. His firm, which has worked on other redesigns of history themed display space, has been contracted to redesign the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. He explained that his aim was to give the space flexibility, make better use of what is available, and make it easier for the staff to work.

He has come up with two options plus the possibility to combine elements of both. The back wall will be a focal point for displays. Using smaller display tables will allow for more space and the lighting will be improved.

In one option, a mock opening in the floor could be created to show an archeological test pit. In the other option the floor could be made into a full site map of Shuter's Hill, where Alexandria Archaeology's archeologists have been working for decades. The changes are planned to take place over time since it would cost more to do it all at once.

To expedite the meeting, approving the minutes of the last meeting was tabled to next month.

**Chair Report:** Vincent LaPointe, who has been Chair for several terms, and a member of the Archaeological Commission for nine years, announced that he is moving to Florida and so will be unable to continue on the Commission.

**517 Prince Street:** The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has made an offer to buy 517 Prince Street. This house is very important because of its authentic restoration to its origins in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century. Joe Reeder, its present owner, did this work and received a Ben Brenman Award in recognition. He is elderly now and would like the house to be maintained in its restored condition.

The Park Authority wants to buy the property and maintain it on condition that the City extend its lease on Cameron Run Regional Park for 30 years. The Park Authority's option to buy the property expires when the lease expires. It wants public support for its proposal.

Janice Magnuson has been a docent at Carlyle House for a number of years. She is very concerned that given the Park Authority's poor maintenance of Carlyle House, which it already owns, it will not be willing to exert the effort and spend what is necessary to maintain the Reeder House with anything like the care the present owner has given it. At the least, we need more information from Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the Park Authority, as well as explicit commitments regarding preservation of the Reeder House.

Indy McCall moved that Janice write a letter on our behalf with assistance from Mark Ludlow and Jake Hoogland, asking for more information and explicit commitments. Janice seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Ben Brenman Awards:** Plans are to present these awards at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 13. Volunteers will meet for assembling the awards at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum on Saturday, September 26.

**New position:** Fran will be interviewing applicants for a new full-time Archaeologist position with the Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology. The new Archaeologist will fill the role of collections manager. The interviews will be conducted on weekdays during working hours. Janice volunteered to represent the AAC on the interview panel.

**Election of Officers:** We held our election of officers. The following were elected:  
Elizabeth McCall, Chair  
Mary Jane Nugent, Vice Chair  
Ann Davin, Secretary

**Street Naming Committee:** The last order of business was the Council's soon to be created committee on naming streets or not naming streets. Indy suggested that we seek a slot on this committee and there was general agreement that we should.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m., at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.