

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of December, 15, 2015 - FINAL

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria
Historical Society
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III

S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation

Members Excused:

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

Meeting was called to order by Indy McCall at 7 p.m.

Amendments to Minutes:

Locations for meetings in 2016 discussed. Kathleen Pepper volunteered to locate and contact new leader of Del Ray Artisans. Fran Bromberg to do walkabout along Canal and will work with Indy on schedule. Ted Pulliam to coordinate possible meeting site with St. Paul's. Possible Saturday tour of Carlyle House discussed.

Design for Archaeology museum briefly discussed. Send additional questions and comments regarding design and layout to Fran Bromberg via email.

The November minutes were reviewed and were accepted as amended.

Membership Issues:

Ted Pulliam was nominated and approved for re-appointment to Waterfront Commission.

Waterfront Plan Implementation:

Discussion on what AAC role is in the waterfront plan implementation.

Warehouse Materials Conservation:

Fran reported on findings regarding the warehouse and discussed the conservation issues related to the two different types of wood recovered. Estimated \$34,000 needed for conservation. About \$23,000 already budgeted with City funds.

18th Century Ship Discovery:

Remains of a 50-foot long, sturdily built vessel found during excavations. Appears that vessel was scuttled and used to stabilize fill. Information can be recorded digitally by Thunderbird Archaeology with costs covered by Carr. Discussions are on-going as to best course of action on what to do with the ship remains.

A motion was made and passed for AAC to write a letter to City Council in support of Fran's and staff's decisions as to the best course of action after evaluating the ship's significance. Ask Council to consider money for conservation if determined necessary.

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Future Steps:

AAC needs to develop criteria for archaeological remains that may be found in the future as the Waterfront Plan progresses. Set up a template using these recent finds for future discoveries that incorporates our Waterfront Plan and the Waterfront Area as a whole.

Need future discussion on how to advocate for our Waterfront Plan. Discussed that AAC should revisit plan, refine it with recent changes and discoveries, determine what is important, what has been funded and what has not been funded. HARC wants to show support of AAC for conservation and long term funding for archaeological discoveries as they unfold. Need to discuss how HARC can assist.

Threatened Sites:

Public forum will be held on Thursday, February 25 at Lyceum. Announcement will be made in press release to go out in early January. Discussion to revolve around sites nominated and what steps can be taken for preservation.

Al Cox is planning Historic Architecture workshop weekend and invited us to collaborate with them. This is a Commission and not a staff issue. Discussed that we might present what a preservation agenda could look like for a site. Need to note that these are non-binding suggestions.

Committee Reports:

Alley Ways:

Seth Tinkham reported that the Alley Ways group met and determined that 98% of project completed. Meeting in January to finalize results and prepare report. HAF funded intern to assist.

Potomac Yard:

Park Service will fill in wetland for Metro.

Torpedo Factory:

Consultant was hired to assist in determining what role the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board play.

Fort Ward:

Two on-site meetings were held Saturday, December 5 and Saturday, December 12, at 1 p.m., by Alexandria Archaeology staff, to see work done to scrape, by machine and by hand, the proposed path for drainage near Oakland Baptist Cemetery and Old Grave Yard.

There were Descendants' concerns about unknown graves in this area. No graves were found. The finished drainage will keep drainage water away from this area. The Old Grave Yard will be marked by wrought iron replicas of stakes and ropes.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 17.

9:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned.