

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2016 – FINAL

Members Present:

Mary Jane Nugent, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
S. Kathleen Pepper, Society for the
Preservation of Black Heritage
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Rebecca Siegel, Planning District II
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I
Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria
Historical Society

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large

Members Excused:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair) Excused
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large,
Excused
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation, unexcused

City Staff:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist

The AAC's Vice Chair, Mary Jane Nugent, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Welcome to new Commission Member Ivy Whitlatch. Fran Bromberg will get packet of general materials to her.

Moved to accept March minutes as amended by S. Kathleen Pepper and seconded by Ted Pulliam.

Moved to accept April minutes as amended by Kathleen and seconded by Ted.

Budget Update: Budget was approved by City Council with \$50,000 reserve for Archaeology. An additional \$20,000 was allocated from the yearly lease agreement with Virtue Restaurant for its use of the alley.

Membership issues: Chamber of Commerce representative still needed. This position has been publicized, but no response yet.

Kathleen signed up and was sworn in for her final term on AAC.

FOAA Joint Meeting: Discussion ensued on what AAC should expect from FOAA. Decided that we should receive the reports from FOAA and will have the joint meeting occur at the July AAC meeting.

Strategic Plan: Strategic plan approved by AAC. Fran reported that Indy McCall was working on the draft of the Annual Report. The draft is slated to be discussed at next (June) meeting. The final Annual Report is due to the City by Sunday, July 31.

Endangered and Threatened sites: Final actions – Katy Cannady suggested that we post a summary of the 2015 public forum on the Museum's website. Katy moved that information posted to the website include the public forum, the list of the sites discussed, and provide a link to video. Ted suggested a press release announcing the posting to the website. City should know what we did and that we engaged citizens on the issue. AAC is a conduit of information and we are not recommending any actions. It was beneficial to hear what the interested public had to say.

Katy made the motion and Janice Magnuson seconded the motion that we post the list of sites

nominated by the public to the website and issue a press release. The list will not rank the sites, but will consider all of them equally important. Passed.

Waterfront Design Discussions:

Waterfront Commission – Ted reported that they met yesterday. The Governance subcommittee, which manages maintenance and fundraising issues, is discussing whether to have the waterfront designated a Business Improvement District. Business groups consulted by the committee thought a Business Improvement District was the best way to go, and there were suggestions to extend the district to include the King Street corridor. This issue is still very much open-ended and there has not been much input by residents. This issue may be taken up with City Council.

Ship - RFPs will be sent out in June to find a conservator. Museum has \$75,000 to start the process. Future fund raising will be conducted with the assistance of IW to help create the logo and/or brand. Fran was approached by Ivy at the fundraiser, who publishes a newsletter called Waterway Guides and who promises to publicize the ship and the fundraising efforts.

Torpedo Factory – The City Manager announced that when an Artist's lease runs out, a new lease for the space will be signed directly with the City. The Arts Committee of the Recreation Department is going to be the administrating agency for the building. Employees of the Torpedo Factory may become City employees under the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Department. This change in management may present a window of opportunity for the Museum to move to bigger space, particularly because it draws the most visitors in the building.

Cemetery Committee: The Committee has not met yet. Members may ask Barbara Magid, OHA's IT Liaison, to help produce a worksheet for recording information. Mark Ludlow and Mary Jane plan to look at the Wilkes Street Cemetery complex, including Penny Hill, which served as a paupers' field during early 1900s. Surviving eyewitness accounts reported the destruction of the gravestones there. The Methodist Second cemetery also is in horrible shape, as is a small cemetery in the West End, near I-395, behind Dollar Tree store [Lebanon Union Cemetery, 201 N Breckinridge Place]. The Committee plans to develop a maintenance guide for the City, which also could be used by private cemeteries. Other committee suggestions included a cemetery workday.

Other Planning Updates and Reports:

Potomac Yards- Katy reported that proponents of Plan B were successful in having their plan approved. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not been published, even after more than a year in process. Originally, the area was zoned for heavy office use, but the new owner, JBG Co., wants to take their part of Potomac Yards, near the theater, and build residential units instead. The haul route for construction and filling of the wetlands for the proposed Potomac Metro will be along the residential Potomac Greens Avenue. The Special Use Permit (SUP) has not been approved.

Old Town North (OTN) Master Plan – Fran reported that the Master Plan for the Old Town North Small Area Plan is being worked on with the Planning & Zoning Department and other City departments. The goal for historical preservation and interpretation is to tie the area with the Waterfront History Plan that is part of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. The actual preparation of the history section for the Master Plan is being put out to bid.

Member Reports: Fort Ward, no meeting, nothing to report.

Staff Reports/Reminders: Fran reported that plans are moving forward with fundraising efforts

to fund the preservation of the ship. The fundraiser in May raised \$22,000. Old Town Civic Association is going to donate \$5,000 towards the boat preservation. The City assisted with \$50,000 plus \$20,000, as noted in the Budget discussion.

June AAC meeting will be the annual Walkabout and will tour OTN at Canal Center beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the corner of Rivergate Place and Montgomery Street. AAC members may meet at Metro Stage Theater or also near Orinoco Park or Giant Parking Lot.

Volunteer Hours - recorded

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Jake Hoogland moved to close, Mary Jane seconded.