

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2016 - 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
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
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
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I

Members Absent: None

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, Archaeologist
Garrett Fesler, Archaeologist

1. Call to order: The AAC's Chair, Indy McCall, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Indy McCall recommended that the AAC limit meetings held at other locations besides the Archaeology Museum to three per year. Indy also reminder the Commission members that the group photo for the website will be taken at the next meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes with the changes was made by Mary Jane Nugent and seconded by Mark Ludlow.

3. Chair Reports:

Joe Reeder's House - Indy McCall reported that there is a movement by HARC to have the City buy Joe Reeder's house. HARC has applied for a grant of 1.5 million that includes the purchase price and maintenance costs. The City will administer the grant. The current plan is to allow Joe Reeder to continue to live there and then preserve the building. The grounds could be used for special events. Local colleges with preservation programs may be interested in studying the structural and design elements of the house.

Jones Point Park Recreation Plan - A new Jones Point Park Recreation Plan is being designed by the National Park Service and is on its website. One of the proposals is to locate the terminus of the Royal Street bike path at the park. This Saturday, August 20, the National Park Service will be meeting to discuss the designs plans for Jones Point Park Recreation Plan.

OTN SAP – OTN (Old Town North) briefing is to be held in the Sisters City Room in City Hall on Monday, August 29, to summarize the update on summer tasks regarding the history plan and introduce the consultant.

4. Membership Issues:

Still no applications from the Chamber of Commerce representative. There are a number of

Alexandrians who are interested in joining the AAC, but they do not live in the right area or belong to the relevant organizations. One option is to see if any of the interested applicants would be willing or eligible to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Planning District II – Rebecca Siegal will be here until November, which will give the AAC a chance to locate a candidate from this district.

Indy McCall suggested that we review every commission members' status and determine whose term is coming to an end, in order to plan ahead.

5. Slate of Officers for election in September: Janice Magnuson made a motion to keep the status quo of the officers. The motion was seconded by Ralph Rosenbaum.

6. Final Approval of Annual Report FY2016 with Strategic Plan: Indy will complete the final report for the September meeting.

7. Ben Brenman Award Committee: Have not yet received any nominations for the Brenman Awards from the Public. Two nominees were suggested by AAC members – Carr Hospitality and the Naval History & Heritage Command, both for their involvement in the recovery and analysis of the Ship. Janice Magnuson will follow up with Fran Bromberg, City Archaeologist, and Jennifer Barker, Admin Support to get out the press release this week. We will ask to have the presentation of awards to be added to the docket for a City Council meeting in October. Request that three awards be constructed. Ben Brenman subgroup scheduled the assembly of the awards for Saturday, October 1 at 10 a.m. Ann Davin will send out reminder to the Commission for this entertaining and creative endeavor.

8. Confederate Ad Hoc: Indy reported that the committee will release a draft report this September. The group was charged with three options: 1) making recommendations; 2) no recommendations; or 3) take no action. The product of the discussions is a draft report that has support from the majority, but no overall consensus.

9. Waterfront Design Discussion:

Alexandria Waterfront Commission Update – Ted Pulliam reported that there are no structures remaining south of the Strand between Prince and Duke streets; the Beachcomber and Marine building are all gone. The proposed construction includes mixed residential/commercial and a restaurant.

The Waterfront Commission has a new chair, Kathryn Kolbe.

Robinson Terminal North – Development is on indefinite hold. Department of Environmental Quality will require the remediation program related to the soil pollution caused by the use of this area by the Vogel Chemical Company and a creosote factory. The development plans had called for the removal of the cap that covers this former industrial facility and building of an underground parking. The State is investigating the environmental pollution issues and a report will be issued mid-September. The City and State need to determine who is responsible for the clean-up and where the contaminated soil is to go before any development continues. If the concrete cap remains, then the contaminated soil is less of an issue.

Ship Update – Eleanor Breen

Ownership of the ship has been conveyed by Carr Hospitality to the City of Alexandria. Alexandria Archaeology has submitted a grant application to the National Maritime Heritage to fund materials to conserve the ship and to document the timbers before conservation starts. The National Maritime Heritage requires a grant to be matched, which City has agreed to do.

The deadline for the RFPs to oversee the conservation of the ship was Friday, August 12.

AAC discussed the need for the City to hire a professional consultant to help implement the Waterfront History Plan. Further discussion of this issue is to be placed on the agenda for September's meeting.

10. Other AAC Committee Reports

Cemetery Committee – Ivy Whitlach and Mark Ludlow have drafted a preliminary survey form. The form is designed to organize the survey of the grave markers similar to that of conducting a census. AAC members discussed how to reach out for volunteers, including the Scouts, Daughters of the American Revolution (with 13 chapters), and garden clubs.

Washington Conservation Guild Angels were consulted and are willing to do a project this spring involving one of the cemeteries. The "Angels" will put together a grant proposal to conduct the project.

One of the first issues of the survey is to determine how many cemeteries are out there. In the 1990s, a handbook was written, which is now on the OHA website. The OHA website references approximately 15 historic cemeteries and 23 additional ones in the historic district. It would be beneficial to research what was previously recorded, including what is in the museum records. Garrett Fesler suggested that the committee meet with Benjamin Skolnik, the GIS technician, and determine what has been recorded.

Also, a suggestion was made that the committee members talk to the City General Services Department regarding the City-owned and City-maintained cemeteries.

11. Other Planning Updates and Reports (as needed):

- **Potomac Yard:** Katy Cannady reported that the City voted on Option B, but did not vote on funding. A 10% tax may be levied on property owners on the western portion of the project. The possibility that this tax could be assessed was an issue when JBG Companies bought the property. JBG Companies, the developers, also are unwilling to pay for the Metro station.
- **Fort Ward Implementation:** Updates are as follows: Implementation committee will be extended for a year; trees will be planted in the fall; and the Interpretation committee will send out an RFP in September. The next Fort Ward meeting will be at the end of September.
- **Torpedo Factory Art Center Update:** Ralph Rosenbaum reported on the last meeting of the old TFAC governance board. Discussions included what to do with the assets because

they are a charity and the City is not a charity. There is one more meeting of the old board. The City is thinking of having a private/public structure to raise money for the center.

- **Ramsay Homes:** Thunderbird Archaeology is conducting documentary research of the project area. A fairly large Civil war complex once existed in the project area that may still be present as the Ramsay Homes were built on slabs. This Civil War complex included barracks and a mess hall for soldiers. The Section 106 process has been poorly done. The AAC needs to figure out what the Commission wants the outcome of the Section 106 process to be.

12. Member Reports – Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)

Rebecca reported that the Annual report was finished today: however, FOAA has no officers. At the AAC September meeting we will need to discuss how to re-invigorate FOAA. Garrett reported that he has a fairly robust group of volunteers and will suggest that they join FOAA. The plan is to send out a mass email to lab and field volunteers to join FOAA.

Garrett suggested that Benjamin update the AAC on the recent discoveries at Shuter's Hill and mentioned that there are volunteers working there every Saturday. Garrett also reported that a large late 19th-century brick kiln was found across from Hunting Towers.

13. Staff Reports/Reminders: Ruth's retirement at Lloyd House. Potluck style on Wednesday, August 31 at 4 p.m.

15. Record Volunteer Hours

16. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Ann Davin with Seth Tinkham seconding.