

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2018 - FINAL

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Ann Davin, Alexandria Association
(Secretary)
Katy Canady, Alexandria Historical Society
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria
Foundation

Esther White, Planning District II

Members Absent and excused:

Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, Acting City Archaeologist

Guests:

Richard (Dick) Owens, FOAA Board
Member

Call to order: The AAC's Chair, Indy McCall, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Vote to accept the minutes as amended moved by Ralph Rosenbaum and seconded by Mark Ludlow.

Chair Report

Indy reported on the HARC meeting that occurred last night. Tony Gammon, Deputy Director, Department of Project Implementation (DPI) spoke at HARC and gave his opinion of the state of play. He confirmed that \$25,000 has been set aside for the interim Waterfront Park programmatic interpretation. Indy recommended that the time has come to take another look at the Waterfront History Plan and provide input on park planning.

Indy reported that the Alabama Lynching Museum sponsored by the Equal Justice Initiative is opening soon. There are two well documented lynchings in Alexandria in the 1890s, off Market Square. Students of the Duke Ellington School in DC asked City Council if they could prepare a memorial of these as a contribution to the museum. City Manager Mark Jinks asked HARC to respond on behalf of the City. HARC passed a resolution to support the initiative and to request additional information on what is involved.

Indy and Eleanor Breen discussed the walkabouts scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, on the Waterfront and in August, of an historic district. Commission members discussed using the Waterfront History Plan as the focus for the June walkabout. The walkabout provides an opportunity to discuss the main points of the plan and see what needs to be revamped. May ask Gretchen Bulova, Acting Director, Office of Historic Alexandria, if she could come to show her how much work has been done, etc. For the tour in August, it was decided to invite someone in the architectural community, such as Al Cox.

Discussion continued regarding the implementation of the Waterfront History Plan. Everyone is still on board with the thematic organizing principle. It was proposed that a working group comprised of the AAC and select members of HARC be formed to make specific

recommendations on how to implement Waterfront History Plan. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Waterfront Commission, and then sent on to DPI, OLIN, (?) and City Council.

Motion was made to form a collaborative group with HARC to oversee the implementation of the Waterfront History Plan. Ann Davin made the motion and Janice Magnuson seconded and all approved.

It was also decided to invite Tony Gammon of the DPI to the May meeting to discuss what AAC is planning and get feedback.

AAC Administration Issue: Indy's term at HARC is up and needs to be formally re-nominated by the AAC. Janice nominated Indy and Ralph seconded the nomination. All voted in favor. Indy will notify the City Clerk.

Ships!

Three ships have recently been located at the Robinson Terminal South project area, as well as the earlier recovery of one at Hotel Indigo. Archeological investigations of the ships and wharves continue. EYA and City Council, as of now, are supporting all efforts for ships and the archaeological investigations.

A motion was made to write a letter to EYA thanking them for their support and enthusiasm. Janice proposed the motion and Esther White seconded. All approved.

Ships Committee: Esther reported that there was a good first meeting for the Ships Committee and they are going to meet again on Friday, April 20 at 8 a.m. and then every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m., depending on staff availability. The focus of the committee is to make recommendations on what should happen with the ships, both long and short term.

BAR Consolidation: At the last City Council meeting, Justin Wilson and Paul Smedburg proposed the consolidation of the Parker Grey District with the Old and Historic District. City Council is to reach out to the historic commissions for feedback. Both historic districts have National Park Service recognition, which may complicate their merging.

Staff Reports

Fort Ward: Nothing happening on Fort Ward until June when there will be another Stakeholders meeting. Good model for the Waterfront History Plan.

Freedom House: Nothing has been signed regarding the funding for the mortgage. The Urban League has requested that the number of tours of the museum be expanded.

Ramsay Homes: No demolition scheduled yet. Archaeologist are gearing up to conduct trenching of the site area. Three small pieces of walls are to be saved and conserved. HAF and HARC members are involved and Gretchen is making arrangements with General Services.

Combined Sewer System (CSS): Funding was approved by City Council. Not sure yet how the CSS will affect Waterfront plan.

Alleyway Working Group: Mike Commisso to receive the T. Michael Miller Award.

Spring 2ACTion Happy Hour on Wednesday, April 25, 215 North Fairfax Street, 6-8 p.m.

Brenman Awards request for nominations press release has been published.

FOAA Update: Richard Owens reported on the draft version of the strategic plan. FOAA has received an extension until November for filing this year. Board members are starting to capture what needs to be done; such as how to tally up volunteer hours, rebuild and expand membership, and expand the social media platform. Auditable financial records are now being developed. The FOAA board would like to expand public education with museum staff and have greater involvement with ship funding efforts.

Record Volunteer Hours

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Seth and seconded by Ralph and agreed to by all.