

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Minutes of May 15, 2018 Meeting

Members Present:

Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
(Chair)
Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Member at Large (Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Business Community
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Esther White, Planning District II

FOAA Members:

Paula Whitacre
Linda Lovell
Sean Denniston

Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Absent:

Georgia (Katy) Canady, Alexandria Historical
Society
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

1. Call to Order:

Elizabeth McCall (Indy), Chair, called the Joint Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) and Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the April minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as amended and Mark Ludlow seconded the motion. All members agreed.

3. Joint Meeting of AAC and FOAA

Paula Whitacre and Jay Roberts received the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. Paula for her book A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose and Jay Roberts for Lost Alexandria: An Illustrated Guide to Sixteen Destroyed Historic Homes in and around Alexandria, VA, with drawn images of the 16 missing houses.

Discussion ensued regarding the improved integration of AAC, FOAA, and Archaeology staff to help in planning and outreach to advocate for history and archaeology in Alexandria. FOAA, with its non-profit status, is important for its fund-raising abilities.

Indy reported that at the Tuesday, May 14 City Council meeting, Councilman John Chapman asked for a briefing from the Alexandria Archaeology staff on its Virginia Department of Historic Resources and CLG grant application for non-invasive surveys of Penny Hill and Douglas cemeteries. Staff propose to use resistivity and ground penetrating radar to locate burials where markers are no longer present. This is the first step in the stewardship and historic preservation of these little-known cemeteries. Staff will contribute time and GPS expertise and FOAA members have volunteered to survey the above-ground conditions of Penny Hill and Douglas cemeteries.

Visit Alexandria has declined having a representative on AAC for over 20 years and Indy suggested that we propose to City Council that we drop the Visit Alexandria representative. Society for the Preservation of Black History slot does need to be filled, but no one has been identified as yet.

Paula Whitacre discussed FOAA's objectives, primarily that this was a rebuilding year for FOAA, focusing on the organization of the finances and legal status. FOAA is planning on increasing the number of activities to involve more of the community. Top priorities are to build up the Board, attract new members, increase money coming in, and figure out how to use it. FOAA's status as a 501(C)3 enables it to fundraise and apply for grants available only to non-profits.

Indy moved to institutionalizing a more formal communication/collaboration between AAC and FOAA by having quarterly meetings with AAC Chair and FOAA President to help coordinate activities and strategic planning with Staff to determine how best to support Archaeology staff. Ann Davin moved to accept this motion and Dylan Colligan seconded it and all members agreed.

4. Chair Reports

HARC does not meet until next week, so no news.

Indy met with Gretchen Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria, to discuss a variety of issues, such as the Archaeology Museum's space in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Gretchen reported that she had met with Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activity, who said there were no plans to move the museum out of the Torpedo Factory for the next six to eight years. Limited revitalization of the museum is planned under the current Capital Improvements Plan. Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist, reported that the museum will be getting a new floor, redoing "Sandy's corner" into a kids' activity area and making other small changes.

Indy's AAC term is up in April.

5. Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

Waterfront Commission – meets next week.

Ship Committee – Esther White reported that the group met last week, and Wednesday, June 12 is next meeting.

African American Heritage Trail Committee – Indy reported that the initial write-ups of stops along trails are ongoing.

River Renew – Ivy Whitlatch reported that there was a meeting two weeks ago when an update on the Environmental Assessment, projected to be released in June, was given. More listening sessions are planned.

5G Network – Indy reported that she went to a meeting regarding the 5G network. There are various proposed models of the small cell towers, which will be designed to fit into the existing streetscape. Every provider is able to have a tower, which will increase their numbers. Old Town Alexandria will be more affected than other areas. Trunk lines will be used to connect the poles and when they are planned for alley ways it has been suggested that part of the construction funds go to their restoration. Archaeology will be involved as there will be below ground impacts associated with the construction.

Strategic Plan – Indy will tackle the Strategic Plan in coordination with Eleanor.

June and August Meetings – The June 19 meeting will be a walkabout along the African American Trail along the Waterfront. AAC and others interested will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the bottom of King Street.

– Indy proposed that the August 21 meeting at Fort Ward begin with a picnic at 6:30 p.m. Eleanor will give a brief presentation on the Fort Ward Master Plan.

6. Staff Reports

Eleanor reported that Emma Richardson, Archaeology’s Museum Education Specialist, has designed an ambitious program at the Alexandria Bus Barn involving the Ships. The morning sessions will be for kids and the afternoon sessions for adults. CIP funds for 3D documentation of ships.

7. Record Volunteer Hour

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Mark and seconded by Dylan and agreed to by all members.