

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of October 16, 2019 Meeting

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Member at Large (Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Business Community
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Excused:

Georgia (Katy) Cannady, Alexandria Historical
Society
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III
Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Member at Large
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Call to Order

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the September minutes. Richard Owens made a motion to approve the July minutes as amended, Esther White seconded the motion and all members approved.

Chair Reports

Ivy proposed several organizational strategies for the coming year:

- a. Archaeology Museum Support committee: support Museum staff with a designated coordinator to liaise with staff and AAC;
- b. Community Outreach committee: develop and implement a consistent messaging program to engage with the community and to optimize opportunities we get involved in;
- c. Civic Engagement committee: work to develop stronger relationships with City Council members to promote our Waterfront History Plan, a Museum, and keep the ships and timbers in the forefront. This committee also will look into other City boards and commissions to join, to expand our presence in the community.

These committees will have a coordinator/lead and not necessarily meet in person between the monthly AAC meetings. The activities of the committees will be presented/discussed at the monthly meetings.

Esther White moved that as of November we organize the meeting agenda around the committees and proposed work sessions, Ann Davin seconded motion and all members agreed.

Brenman Awards

Mark Ludlow moved that in the future AAC have a reception for past and present Brenman Award members following the awards presentation at City Hall, Esther seconded and all members agreed.

Mark moved that future AAC meetings be held at the Lloyd House, Ann seconded and all members agreed.

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Staff Presentation

Ivy presented a slide show on the ship preservation activities at the bus barn.

Museum Budget Letter

Ivy presented the Museum budget letter to AAC. The Archaeology Museum has put in a request for funds for medium-term storage for the ships and to conserve some important timbers for fiscal year 2021. Need to locate a private or public space where the timbers can be kept submerged and to include interpretation of what was located there. Register this location with the State of Virginia in order to protect them from any impacts.

Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

Waterfront Commission – Mark reported that there were three items on the agenda that might be of interest to the AAC.

1. 2 Duke Street, the brick building will be taken down and reassembled with a new address of 10 Duke street. Developer gave presentation as part of New Market at Robinson Landing development.
2. Robinson Landing Pier restaurant – originally in an airstream, now container unit.
3. Dockless mobility issue - the City of Alexandria pilot program allowing private companies to operate shared mobility devices (such as dockless bicycles and scooters available for rent) under a nine month demonstration program.

Ship Committee – Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Resources, invited Ivy, Esther and Eleanor to discuss several issues including the ships, the budget letter, and how best the museum could use the ships. Gretchen is looking to the AAC on to what to do with the ships.

RiverRenew – meeting cancelled and there may not be one until December.

African-American Heritage Trail Committee – no update.

Cemeteries – The Archaeology Museum received a certified local government grant for \$10,500 to locate graves in the Douglass Cemetery on Wilkes Street and the Penny Hill Cemetery on South Payne. Many of the graves no longer are marked by stone. Geophysical studies and Ground Penetrating Radar will be conducted by Rhea Engineering Co.

Ramsay Homes – no updates.

FOAA – Dick reported that at the Saturday, September 28 board meeting FOAA members voted in favor of making donations to two museum projects, the Welcome Mat and the Interactive Corner.

Freedom House – There was no update regarding Freedom House. Esther moved that AAC send a letter to City Council if needed voicing support for the City purchasing Freedom House, and seconded by Mark, and all members agreed.

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Staff Reports

October Archaeology Month – Eleanor reported that that the Museum would be installing new exhibits in October. This included the opening of Preserving Alexandria's Maritime Heritage Exhibit on Saturday, October 19 at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Record Volunteer Hours

Motion to adjourn made at 8:50 p.m. made by Ann, seconded by Esther and all members agreed.