

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of March 17, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Registration URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsZHf9pgTJG29clEEDFmHg

Meeting/Webinar ID: 922 1607 7097

Meeting/Webinar Password: 431483

Dial-in number: 301-715-8592

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 (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large
Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria
Archaeology
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large
Christopher Warren, Alexandria Historical
Society

Members absent:

Mark Ludlow, Member at Large: excused
Ted Pulliam, Alexandria Association: excused

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist
Emma Richardson, Museum Education
Specialist, Alexandria Archaeology

Public:

Rebecca Doser, Communications Manager,
Visit Alexandria

Call to Order: Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice for the City of Alexandria by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Emma Richardson.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the March 17th meeting of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at the Lloyd House at 220 N. Washington, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the link or phone number posted on the City calendar. Public comment will be received at the meeting by stating name and comment. Questions can be submitted to the committee through the Q&A feature on Zoom. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the alexandriava.gov/historic webpage. Zoom is compatible with assistive technologies such as screen readers and keyboard shortcuts.

Review and Approval of Minutes

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, February 17 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes, Esther White seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

Chair Report: Ivy Whitlatch

Ivy Whitlatch introduced the following individuals:

Chris Warren, as the new representative of Alexandria Historical Society to the AAC; and visitor, Rebecca Doser, of Visit Alexandria

- **Action Plan for Vibrancy and Sustainability Plan for the Torpedo Factory Art Center**

Ivy gave a summary of the City Council meeting where the Action Plan for Vibrancy and Sustainability Plan for the Torpedo Factory (“Action Plan”) was presented by Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and Director, Office of the Arts and Events. Following the presentation and discussion, City Council member, Amy Jackson, recommended that the Alexandria Archaeology Museum be designated as a stakeholder and not just a tenant. City Council requested that a Stakeholder Engagement plan be developed in the next two months.

AAC discussed the possibility of Gretchen Bulova, Director of Office of Historic Alexandria, coordinating with Diane in the drafting of the Stakeholder Engagement and Action plans.

Ralph Rosenbaum moved that Eleanor, Gretchen, Ivy, and Christine Hines, President of Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) develop a response to the Action Plan. Dylan Colligan seconded, all AAC members agreed.

- **Alexandria Archaeology Support Committee**

Dick Owens reported that FOAA continues to support the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in any way it can. Dick suggested that we discuss resurrecting the Archaeology After Dark program, on a virtual basis, at the joint April meeting with FOAA.

- **Awards Committee Selection**

Dylan and Jake Hoogland reviewed the past Ben Brenman awards and criteria and proposed that a Del Pepper Award for Public Advocacy of Historic Resources/Archaeology be initiated. The other categories for which recipients receive a Ben Brenman award will remain as is. It was suggested that FOAA be partners with AAC to present the award when a qualified person from the community is nominated. A Del Pepper Award would not necessarily be presented on a yearly basis.

Jake moved that the Dell Pepper Award for Public Advocacy be established, in conjunction with the Ben Brenman Award, Dylan seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

At the joint April meeting, AAC will discuss with FOAA the Del Pepper award and FOAA’s potential role. AAC decided to table the when and how we do the award until discussions with FOAA.

Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

- **Waterfront Updates**

- a. Ships/Waterfront Archaeology Update: Eleanor presented a summary of the following items: The response period has closed for the RFP regarding moving the ships timbers and placing them in the Ben Brenman Pond (also called Cameron Station Pond) located in Ben Brenman Park. A student from University of Pennsylvania is doing their dissertation on the timbers.
- b. Waterfront Commission: Eleanor reported that she gave a brief update to the commission on the new Waterfront interpretive signs. She also discussed the 101 Duke residential development project where archaeology will be involved.

- c. African American Heritage Trail: Eleanor reported that the southern portion of the trail is to be launched in the summer. Committee members and the Black History Museum are planning a virtual celebration event in June.

- **Archaeology Protection Code Updates**

Eleanor gave the quarterly update on the ongoing archaeological projects in the city. Over 100 projects were reviewed over the past several months, and include the following:

- a. Upland Park- a former farm will have documentary research and archaeological investigations for a mixed-use development in the West End;
- b. Fort Ward playground- the new location is near the amphitheater. The area will be built up to avoid impacts to any potential subsurface remains;
- c. Oakville Triangle – location of the former Swan Plantation. Documentary research has been done and archeology is planned;
- d. Potomac Yard – investigations of the Preston Plantation where a cemetery was located. Most burials have been removed, but checking to verify none remain;
- e. The Aspire – a proposed age-restricted multi-family building on First Street, research/investigations of a former glass factory;
- f. 101 Duke Street - research/investigations where a mixed-use facility is planned;
- g. The Heritage - research/investigations of the Bottoms, an African American neighborhood and a tannery;
- h. 1300 King Street – excavations of an 1820's house conducted by Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, for a mixed-use development.

African American Civil Rights Network Nomination: The City Manager signed the letter to the National Park Service and the application is being edited Esther.

Land Acknowledgment Statement: Ted Pulliam and Elizabeth Vehmeyer submitted comments to the draft statement for the City of Alexandria. There was discussion about how these statements are becoming more frequent and whether AAC should have one read at the beginning of each meeting.

Staff Reports:

- Social Media Updates – Eleanor proposed that the Alexandria Archaeology media presentations be shown to the AAC at future meetings.
- Eleanor and Ivy proposed that the AAC write a letter in support of the Alexandria Archaeology budget for the April meeting. Jake Hoogland moved that a letter of support be written, and Ann Davin seconded, and all members agreed.
- No updates on Ramsay Homes from Seth Tinkham.
- The next meeting will be the FOAA Joint Meeting and will be held on Wednesday, April 21.

Record Volunteer Hours

Public Comment

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 9:15 p.m. Ann moved to adjourn the meeting, Seth seconded, and all AAC members agreed.