

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of May 19, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Public Registration URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsZHf9pgTJG29cIEEDFmHg

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

Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large

Richard (Dick) Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Representative

Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association Representative

Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large

Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation Representative

Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large

Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria Historical Society Representative

Dylan Colligan, Business Community Representative

Members Absent:

Mark Ludlow, Member at Large

Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Members of the Public:

Colin Moynihan - future resident of Alexandria, potential AAC member

Steve and Erica Davidson

Tammie Gillums, possible representative for Black Heritage Museum

Call to Order: Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the April 21, 2021, 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, April 21 meeting minutes. Ann Davin moved to accept the minutes as amended; Ted Pulliam seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

Chair Report

- **Historic Alexandria Resources Committee (HARC)**
Ivy summarized items from the most recent meeting:

506 North Overlook – is a late 1870’s African American home, located in a proposed development. The building is not part of an historic district and not on the 100-Year-Old Building list administered by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR). The Planning Commission approved the project under the condition there will be a detailed assessment of the property to determine historical significance.

Martha Harris, of HARC, is reviewing the 100-Year-Old Building List for structures outside of historic districts. It is very difficult to get on the list. HARC is looking to simplify the listing process and find ways to encourage property owners to apply.

- **Waterfront Commission**

Eleanor and Ivy attended Waterfront Commission meeting on Wednesday. The meeting began with a presentation by Diane Ruggiero on the proposed Action Plan for Vibrancy and Sustainability Plan for the Torpedo Factory, with input by Julian Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager for the Public/Private partnerships.

Eleanor presented the Waterfront History Museum feasibility study. Commission members widely approved of the study.

Ivy suggested that the Waterfront History Museum and Torpedo Study should not be done in isolation.

- **Alexandria Archaeology Support Committee** – no report
- **Community Outreach Committee**

Jake Hoogland presented AAC members with the Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 on how to establish the Del Pepper Public Advocacy Award (Del Pepper Award). Most AAC members expressed support for Alternative 1, which could potentially select an individual from the pool of nominees forwarded as part of the Ben Brenman Award process. The award would be presented when an eligible individual was nominated.

A motion was made by Ivy and seconded by Seth Tinkham to announce the establishment of the Del Pepper Public Advocacy Award at the October City Council meeting and the continuance of the Ben Brenman Award as is. The motion is as follows:

1. Motion to continue Ben Brenman nominations and award as it exists.
2. The AAC will announce the initiation of the Del Pepper Award and present Del with the first award at the October 2021 City Council Meeting.

3. Over the next year AAC and Alexandria Archaeology will draft the criteria for Del Pepper award for the October 2022 presentation.
- **Civic Engagement Committee** – no report

Membership Update

Ann, Member-At-Large, announced upcoming resignation, June may be last meeting. Tammie, possibly looking to join AAC as a representative of the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage.

Planning Updates and Reports (as needed)

1. Budget approvals by City – OHA received \$50,000 to enhance Oral History program with an historian to be hired.
2. Full time position approved for Ben Skolnik for two years.
3. Museum Feasibility Study \$125,000
4. Wayfinding budget cut for this FY, therefore no new historic signs funded by the City will be installed in FY21.

Waterfront Updates

- **Waterfront Commission** – as discussed above.
- **African American Heritage Trail Committee**
Eleanor reported that progress was continuing.
- **African American Civil Rights Network Nomination for Freedmen Cemetery**
Seth Tinkham reported that the application had been submitted and accepted, but not formally acted on. Ivy to send email to Park Service to check on status of application.
- **CAMP (Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program)**
Elizabeth Vehmeyer attended and reported that it was geared primarily for BAR. Focused on how commissions work with City staff and community involvement.

Staff Reports

Eleanor reported that the revised the City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards have been sent out for comments. These have not been thoroughly revised since 1997. An important goal is to create one document for all facets of the archaeology program.

- June 16 – Next AAC Meeting
- Record Volunteer Hours
- Public Comment
- Adjournment the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.