

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: January 19, 2022**

**7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar**

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)
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large (Secretary)
Dylan Colligan, Area Business Community Representative
Nicholas (Nick) Dienna, Member at Large
Rebecca Doser, Visit Alexandria Representative
Ann Greer, 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
Christopher (Chris) Warren, Alexandria Historical Society Representative
Paula Whitacre, Planning District III

Members Absent:

Jacob (Jake) Hoogland, Member at Large - excused

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Public: Tammie Gillums

Call to Order

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

Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice City of Alexandria by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Eleanor Breen: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the December 15 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

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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, December 15 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Ted Pulliam seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved, as amended.

Chair Report - Ivy Whitlatch

- HARC Update
 - Ivy reported that Eleanor attended HARC's meeting on Tuesday, January 18 and gave a presentation on the historic ship stabilization project. HARC was interested in the ponding of the ship timbers as a conservation strategy/method.
 - At that meeting, Danny Smith, Chair of HARC, discussed the Jones Point lighthouse deferred maintenance issue/project.

New City Council Packets Update - Paula Whitacre

- Paula shared that packets now also will include signed copies of Ted's book, "Historic Alexandria" and an Alexandria Archaeology t-shirt.
- Due to COVID-19 Omicron variant, plans for personal delivery were reconsidered by Ivy and Paula, with possible drop off to City Clerk and an offer to set up a Zoom call "meet and greet" in a revised welcome letter.

Membership Update

- Eleanor shared that the next step for the AAC's proposed ordinance amendment is to submit a revised ordinance to the City Clerk so it can get it on the City Council's next docket.
- Dick Owens, FOAA representative on AAC, noted that his term with AAC ends in 90 days. He will discuss with FOAA whether he or someone else from FOAA will fill that Commission seat.

AAC Calendar Change

- With the December 2022 AAC meeting scheduled to fall on Wednesday, December 21, Ivy and Eleanor asked the AAC, before the City finalizes the calendar, if it would like to move the date to the previous Wednesday.
- Esther White moved to change it to December 14. Seth Tinkham seconded. Motion passed. The new date is Wednesday, December 14.

Awards Committee

- With Jake Hoogland, a member of the Awards Committee, absent, the AAC tabled this topic to next month.

Planning Updates and Reports

- Waterfront Updates
 - Waterfront Commission – Esther White
 - On Thursday, January 6, the Flood Mitigation Subcommittee had a presentation by the Department of Project Implementation on the Waterfront Implementation Plan. This subcommittee originally supported Option 2; however, since the fall, the City did flood mitigation modeling for cost option 2 and realized it will not be as effective as originally thought. Now going back to

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Option 1, which includes underground tanks under Founder's Park, archaeology may be impacted. AAC might want to consider its role if/when this option moves forward.

A copy of the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WCFlood6January2022.pdf>

Eleanor offered to invite Matthew Landes, Department of Project Implementation, Division Chief/Waterfront Program Manager to present Option 1 to the AAC so the AAC can express its archeological concerns or possible impacts to Founder's Park. Eleanor noted the City does not have a great sense of what is in Founder's Park, archeologically. Trenching was conducted in an area on the south side of the park to repair utilities. Archaeological integrity was very compromised, but we are not sure about the rest of the park.

○ African American Heritage Trail Committee – Ted Pulliam
Ted shared that the map of the southern route of the Trail is to be discussed in the Committee's next meeting being held Thursday, January 20 and moved to final after that.

Rebecca Doser asked when the southern route of the Trail will be launched. Eleanor gave the expected timeframe of Spring of 2022.

Staff Reports - Eleanor Breen

- Alexandria Archaeology Logo Updates
 - Eleanor appreciated the feedback from AAC, FOAA, and internal staff of the new logo prototype. Since the AAC's December meeting, Eleanor and Emma Richardson, Museum Education Specialist, worked on redesigns. Alexandria Archaeology would like to move forward so they have a digital option that works well.
 - Eleanor presented four logo designs and asked the AAC to provide feedback via a survey link.
- Social Media Updates
 - None
- Archaeology Updates
 - Eleanor encouraged the AAC to attend the virtual community meeting on Fort Ward Park Projects on Monday, January 24.
 - Agenda: Alexandria is hosting a virtual meeting about the proposed changes at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, also on January 24.
 - Historic Ship Stabilization: Ship Pondering is being pushed back to start in April 2022, due to weather and COVID - 19, which offers the opportunity for planning for public engagement and interpretation.
 - George Washington Birthday Parade: Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA still plan on marching in the parade on Monday, February 21. Let Emma know if you want to march with Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The next AAC Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 16.

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