

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*17  
1-9-01

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

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**ISSUE:** Receipt of four Annual Reports from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council receive the reports of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and thank the Commission Members for their efforts on behalf of the City.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Archaeological Commission has prepared four reports detailing the activities of the Commission from 1996 through June 2000. During this four-year period, the Commission worked on a great many significant projects. These are summarized below, with the most recent activities listed first. It should be noted that many of the projects were ongoing for several years, particularly planning and executing events for the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Members also provided significant time over the four-year reporting period preparing recommendations and testimony regarding the historical and cultural resources at Jones Point and at the Freedmen's Cemetery.

**1999-2000**

1. Commission members prepared materials for the Mayor and City Council advocating the preservation of archaeological and cultural resources at Jones Point Park and Freedmen's Cemetery, associated with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Project.
2. In recognition of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, members selected objects for and arranged for the burial of the City's time capsule at the Charles Beatley Library.
3. Members and staff initiated and hosted the annual meeting of the Virginia Archaeological Society as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, including hosting the Alexandria Archaeology Festival— the first in Virginia, attended by 2000 people. This event also served as the inauguration of the Alexandria Heritage Trail.

4. Members and staff published a brochure entitled, "Jones Point Trek," a walking tour guide to the heritage of Jones Point. These brochures were given out at the City's Birthday Celebration in July 1999.

5. Members of the Commission developed a plan for historic markers at the Ben Brenman Park.

1998-1999

1. Three members of the Commission served on three different Stakeholder's Panels established for public input on subjects relating to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. In addition, the Commission provided recommendations to the Council on archaeological and cultural resources at Jones Point Park and Freedmen's Cemetery.

2. Commission members attended the Environmental Quality of Life Summit and provided historical information.

1997-1998

1. Members initiated significant advocacy efforts for the protection of archaeological resources at Jones Point Park.

2. Commission members participated in meetings and discussions concerning an overall waterfront signage system for historical and cultural resources.

3. Members advocated the updating of the City Master Plan Preservation Chapter.

1996-1997

1. Ben Brenman resigned as Chair after 21 years of service; he was honored with a Proclamation from the Mayor and City Council.

2. Members reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement and indicated that all necessary archeological identification had not been completed on resources at Jones Point in particular. The State Department of Historic Resources concurred.

3. Commission members advocated the formation of a commission to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENT:** Reports of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, 1996-2000

**STAFF:** Jean Taylor Federico, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria  
Pamela J. Cressey, City Archaeologist

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**for**

**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1999 - JUNE 2000**

**SUMMARY**

The Commission had an active year in pursuing its three-fold interests of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historical resources and the stewards of those resources. The primary issues under consideration for fiscal year 1999-2000 were: the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point Park, completion of the commemorative Time Capsule as part of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, support of Virginia Archaeology Month activities which were held in Alexandria in October, and participation in the preparation of the recommendations for the preservation planning conducted with the Office of Historic Alexandria.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Commission responded effectively on several situations this year that we felt might impact negatively on the City's archaeological and historic resources. These included the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point Park, the Freedmen's Cemetery, and surrounding neighborhoods of the Historic District. The Commission completed the compilation and burial of a Time Capsule as part of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, participated in Virginia Archaeology Month which was hosted by Alexandria in October, and published a brochure on the archaeological and historic resources in Jones Point Park. In addition, Commission members gave their advice and expertise to City Staff and other Citizen Commissions when requested. The Commission also celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February. In honor of this occasion, FOAA presented the Commission with a certificate of recognition for 25 years of work devoted to preserving and protecting the City's archaeology and history.

## STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC or Commission) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on matters relating to the City's archaeological resources and related issues within the City. Included among the AAC's responsibilities are the establishment of goals and priorities which contribute to the history and heritage of colonial, federal and historic Alexandria; propose local ordinances and state statutes to the City Council and the City Manager which promote the goals and aims embodied in Ordinance No. 3733; plan, develop and recommend short-, mid- and long-term archaeological plans and programs for the City; encourage the integration of archaeological and historical information and site preservation into master plans and development efforts; study and make recommendations to City Council with respect to additional activities involving the City's archaeological program and artifacts; promote the use of the highest professional standards by Alexandria Archaeology staff; and enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States and the world.

AAC meetings are held at least 10 times per year, on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or occasionally at other sites of interest to the Commission. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five (5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the City's three planning districts and six (6) members representing various City organizations.

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission said goodbye to former Vice-Chair Paula Massouh, Secretary Barbara Fiedler, and member Michael Bradshaw. Paula Massouh served on the Commission from October 24, 1989, to December 1999, Barbara Fiedler from February 1992 to February 2000, and Michael Bradshaw from February 10, 1998, to January 11, 2000. Their contributions, energy, and enthusiasm will be missed. The Commission also welcomed new members Tim Dennee and Walter Hall during the year.

Elections are held at the beginning of the calendar year. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Due to changes in membership and elections, persons serving on the Commission may be listed in more than one representative or leadership capacity. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of Fiscal Year 1999-2000.

### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Katherine Ellsworth  
Barbara Fiedler, Secretary  
Susan Hathcock  
Jack Hranicky, Chair  
S. Kathleen Pepper  
Pete Petersen

PLANNING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Planning District I: Lillie Finklea

Planning District II: Richard Cunningham, Secretary

Planning District III: S. Kathleen Pepper

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Alexandria Association: John Roberts

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Mark Fields, Vice-Chair

Alexandria Historical Society: Paula Massouh, Vice-Chair; Tim Dennee

Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Margarette Cooper

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Esther White

Historic Alexandria Foundation: Michael Bradshaw; Walter Hall

**PRESERVATION**

**Woodrow Wilson Bridge**

The major preservation issue for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 continued to be the proposed replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point, the Freedmen's Cemetery and on the overall character of the Historic District. Jack Hranicky, Paula Massouh, Mark Fields, and Lillie Finklea participated in the Stakeholder's meetings at which possible designs for the new bridge as well as the proposed uses for Jones Point Park during the interim construction and after the bridge completion were discussed. The Commission made every effort to call attention to its concerns regarding 1) the identification of prehistoric and historic resources in the construction zone, 2) the impacts that bridge construction and the proposed post-construction uses for Jones Point Park would have on those resources and on the historic character of the City, in general, and 3) the protection or mitigation of impact on the prehistoric and historic resources at Jones Point Park.

In order to promote greater awareness of the range of prehistoric and historic resources existing on Jones Point Park, the Commission, together with Alexandria Archaeology, published a 4-page brochure, "Jones Point Trek: Exploring 5000 Years of Archaeology and History." The brochure identified the resources known from archaeological work or historic reference to have been located on Jones Point. The first run of 1,000 brochures was handed out to the public by Commission members, archaeology staff and volunteers at the archaeology booth at the City's July Birthday celebration at Jones Point Park. A copy of the brochure was sent to the Mayor and each member of the City Council. A second run of these popular brochures was ordered to distribute at the next July celebration.

**The Freedmen's Cemetery**

The Commission continued to keep abreast of the latest developments regarding the Freedmen's Cemetery. Excavations reveal that the cemetery's boundaries extend under Washington Street. The Commission felt that the placement of an adult-size playing field on the proposed Urban Deck was

not an appropriate use for the area given that its boundaries are to come within 5 feet of the cemetery. Alternative Urban Deck configurations are being reviewed to minimize impact on the cemetery. The Commission favors an appropriate memorial and meditative area at the cemetery site.

**Other preservation issues:**

The Commission recommended that the park in Ford's Landing have a name reflecting the prehistoric occupation of that area, such as "Assomack." This suggestion was presented at the Waterfront Committee meeting.

The Chinquapin Trail section of the Alexandria Heritage Trail and Plaque Project was discussed. The Commission recommended that the signs refer to the prehistory and history of the park area.

## **EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**250th Birthday Celebration:** The Commission completed its mission from the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission to assemble a Time Capsule to be buried as part of the Anniversary celebration observance. The Commission members and FOAA funded the purchase of a container and the inert gas to protect its contents once filled and requested donations of items for inclusion in the container as well as a commemorative engraved plaque. Items represented the various aspects of life in Alexandria, including social, economic, transportation, and religion. A duplicate set of contents was sent to the City's Archive and Records Center. The Time Capsule was buried at the new Charles E. Beatley Central Library at the west end of town. Its location is marked by a local Alexandria canal tide lock stone engraved by Ray Kinnetti from a design by Steven Shephard. The City Council issued a Proclamation on February 8, 2000, endorsing the Time Capsule as "an official offering from our time to the citizens one hundred years from now."

**Virginia Archaeology Month:** In recognition of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Archaeology Society of Virginia held its annual meeting in Alexandria in October. The month of October is designated as Virginia Archaeology Month and activities this year were hosted by Alexandria. In conjunction with this, AAC, the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology ("FOAA"), and the Alexandria Archaeology Staff planned a Super Weekend of archaeology. The AAC and FOAA accepted the Mayor's Proclamation for Archaeology Month at the October 12, 1999, City Council meeting. The Commission members participated in the Alexandria Archaeology Festival at the Carlyle House. Archaeologists from around the area hosted 2,000 people to see archaeological booths, hands-on programs, and site tours at the Shuter's Hill site. This was the first Archaeology Festival in Virginia, and probably the country.

## ADVOCACY

**Strategic Historic Plan:** Chairman Hranicky of the Commission was appointed to serve on the Office of Historic Alexandria committee developing a strategic preservation plan. He is serving with City Archaeologist Pam Cressey, and Angela Saunders. The preservation sub-committee which is tasked to identify the preservation goals and objectives facing the City and to develop activities and a budget required to accomplish those goals and objectives.

**Environmental Policy Commission:** Members of the Commission were invited to attend a meeting of the Environmental Policy Commission to discuss areas and issues of mutual concern to both Commissions. Jack Hranicky and Kathleen Pepper presented ideas about the connections between the two commissions. The Environmental Policy Commission adopted a recommendation that the AAC send a liaison to its meetings to facilitate dialogue between the two groups. Rich Cunningham was selected by the AAC to serve as liaison to the Environmental Policy Commission.

**Support of Alexandria Archaeology:** The Commission continued throughout this year to assist staff of Alexandria Archaeology in carrying out their responsibilities. The Commission recommended that Alexandria Archaeology design and sell a holiday ornament as part of the Office of Historic Alexandria holiday ornament series. That project was adopted and nearly 800 "Peace and Plenty" ornaments were sold! In addition, the Commission members continued to work with Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA to increase public familiarity with Alexandria's archaeological heritage through participation in Public Dig Days, the George Washington Birthday Parade, Volunteer Appreciation Party, and Historic Hauntings.

**Ben Brenman Park Signage:** The Commission recommended as possible commemoration of Ben Brenman's long public service to Alexandria the creation of signs along the walkways of Brenman Park in the new Cameron Station development. Commission members toured the Park and developed ideas for signs illustrating the 10,000 years of human occupation at the Park. This project is on-going and the creation and placement of the final proposed signs will be co-ordinated with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Office of Historic Alexandria. Sign design will be consistent with that planned for the Alexandria Heritage Trail and the bike trail which go through the park.

## GOALS

At the start of the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Chairman Hranicky requested suggestions for goals for the year. Suggestions proposed included a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event commemorating the Commission's long and active presence in the community, a commemorative publication, additional walking guides, and markers at Jones Point Park. The Commission unanimously approved the goal of having heritage signs placed at Ben Brenman Park in the new Cameron Station development off of Duke Street.

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**for**

**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1998 - JUNE 1999**

**SUMMARY**

The Commission had an active year in pursuing its three-fold interests of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historical resources and the stewards of those resources. The primary issues under consideration for fiscal year 1998-1999 were: the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point Park, work on the commemorative Time Capsule as part of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration in 1999, discussion and assistance in the development of the Alexandria Heritage Trail and accompanying bike/walk trail book.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Commission responded effectively to the major project affecting Alexandria during this fiscal year: the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point Park and surrounding Historic Districts and neighborhoods. In addition, Commission members gave their advice and expertise to City Staff and other Citizen Commissions.



## STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

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AAC meetings are held at least 10 times per year, on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or occasionally at other sites of interest to the Commission. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five (5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the City's three planning districts and six (6) members representing various City organizations.

During the 1998-1999 fiscal year, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission said goodbye to members Lea Fowlie and Kent Wargowsky. Lea Fowlie served on the Commission from March 28, 1995, to March 28, 1999, and Kent Wargowsky from March 11, 1997, to December 1998. Their contributions, energy, and enthusiasm will be missed. The Commission also welcomed new members Esther White and John Roberts during the past year.

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### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Katherine Ellsworth  
Barbara Fiedler, Secretary  
Susan Hathcock  
Jack Hranicky, Chair  
Pete Petersen

### PLANNING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Planning District I: Lillie Finklea  
Planning District II: Richard Cunningham, Secretary  
Planning District III: S. Kathleen Pepper

### ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Alexandria Association: Kent Wargowsky, John Roberts  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Mark Fields  
Alexandria Historical Society: Paula Massouh, Vice-Chair  
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Margarette Cooper  
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Lea Fowlie; Esther White  
Historic Alexandria Foundation: Michael Bradshaw

## **PRESERVATION**

### **Woodrow Wilson Bridge**

The major preservation issue for Fiscal Year 1998-1999 was the proposed replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point, the Freedmen's Cemetery and on the overall character of the Historic District. Jack Hranicky, Paula Massouh, Rich Cunningham, and Lillie Finklea participated in the Stakeholder's and other related meetings at which possible designs for the new bridge as well as the proposed uses for Jones Point Park during the interim construction and after the bridge completion were discussed. The Commission made every effort to call attention to its concerns regarding 1) the identification of prehistoric and historic resources in the construction zone, 2) the impacts that bridge construction and the proposed post-construction uses for Jones Point Park would have on those resources and on the historic character of the City, in general, and 3) the protection or mitigation of impact on the prehistoric and historic resources at Jones Point Park.

The Commission hosted Peter Smith, the lead City staffer in dealings with the Design Committee for the proposed bridge. He briefed the Commission on the organization of the committee, specifying which section design consultants were responsible for which design portions of the project. He noted that the section design consultants operate independently of the actual bridge designers.

### **The Freedmen's Cemetery**

Remote sensing has been done in the area of the Freedmen's Cemetery to help identify the boundaries of the cemetery. The Commission members indicated in numerous discussions their strong concern that proper investigation, interpretation, preservation, and memorialization of the Freedmen's Cemetery is needed for this important site. The Commission members also participated in and supported the memorial ceremonies for the Freedmen's Cemetery.

### **Other preservation issues:**

Paula Massouh and Pam Cressey attended the dedication ceremonies for the Abingdon Plantation at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The AAC helped in securing the Virginia legislation which protected this site.

## EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**250th Birthday Celebration:** The Commission continued to work on the Time Capsule, a mission from the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission. The Time Capsule is to be buried as part of the Anniversary celebration observance. The Commission members and FOAA discussed the type of container needed to preserve the contents of the container while it is buried, the criteria for selecting the items to be placed in the capsule, issues regarding burial vs. archival handling, size of the burial vault, when and where to bury the capsule, when to open the capsule, and the type of commemorative marker. The Commission voted to bury the Time Capsule on the grounds of the new West End Library in a vault 36" by 36" by 72" in size with instructions to open it 100 years in the future. It was decided that item selection should meet the following criteria: 1) be specific to Alexandria, 2) not be items likely to be archived, 3) be selected from each of the various areas of Alexandria's life, including social, political, technological, economic, environmental, religious, and cultural, 4) represent each of the ethnic groups in Alexandria, 5) represent or symbolize a lasting Alexandria legacy, 6) include items of an Alexandria archaeological interest, and 7) be from the year 1999 - the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Funds to purchase the Time Capsule were donated by the members of the Commission and the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology.

**Alexandria Heritage Trail:** The Commission hosted representatives from the National Park Service, the Alexandria Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Alexandria Bicycle Committee, Alexandria Department of Parks and Recreation, the Office of Historic Alexandria, and the Alexandria Commission for Women to discuss the Alexandria Heritage Trail, its inclusion within the Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail, and issues regarding signage and the creation of a bike/walk trail book.

**Ben Brenman Park:** Jack Hranicky attended the park naming ceremony at Cameron Station. The park is named for long-time AAC member and Chair Ben Brenman who passed away in 1997.

**Col. Bernard Brenman Award:** Barbara Fiedler distributed a draft for the proposed Col. Bernard Brenman Award which would be given annually to an individual or organization. The AAC examined literature showing various types of trophies which might be appropriate for this award. The AAC continued to discuss the nomination procedure, including criteria, and funding for the award.

**Archaeology Boy Scout Merit Badge:** Kathleen Pepper volunteered to be a merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts for boys interested in obtaining their archaeology merit badge.

**Virginia Archaeology Month:** Alexandria will host Virginia Archaeology Month in October 1999. The statewide poster for this event will feature Alexandria.

**Jones Point Brochure:** John Roberts volunteered to draft a brochure or booklet on Jones Point Park. He is working with Mark Miller on this project.

## ADVOCACY

**Historic Preservation Master Plan:** Jack Hranicky and Mark Fields attended a meeting reviewing the Historic Preservation Master Plan. The Commission discussed the need to highlight the preservation section of the Master Plan, particularly in light of the controversy over the development of the Old Colony Inn site.

**Environmental Quality of Life Summit:** Jack Hranicky, Rich Cunningham, and Paula Massouh attended the Environmental Quality of Life (EQOL) Summit held in October 1998. They expressed their concern about the handling of history and archaeological resources in the EQOL report prepared by the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) and indicated that historical and archaeological resources should be an important part of the City's Environmental Quality of Life.

**Support of Alexandria Archaeology:** The Commission continued throughout this year to assist staff of Alexandria Archaeology in carrying out their responsibilities. In addition, the Commission members continued to work with Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA to increase public familiarity with Alexandria's archaeological heritage through participation in Public Dig Days, the George Washington Birthday Parade, Volunteer Appreciation Party, and Historic Hauntings.

**Annual Report  
for  
Fiscal Year July 1997-June 1998**

**Summary**

There were some sad milestones for the Commission during this fiscal year. Long-time Chairman Ben Brenman passed away after an extended illness. The Commission members are acutely aware of how difficult it will be to continue Ben's work without his advice and encouragement, but we are determined to safeguard his legacy of a landmark program in urban archaeology. This year also saw the loss of former Commission members Sara Peck and Jean Beiro. They will be missed. Sara Peck served on the AAC Commission from February 9, 1988 - February 9, 1992. Jean Beiro served from March 24, 1981 - March 28, 1993.

The Commission had an active year in pursuing its three-fold interests of preservation, education and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological resources and the stewards of those resources. The chief issues under consideration were the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the proposed addition of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop Museum to the City museum system, input onto the review of the City's Master Plan and plans for the celebration of the City's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Structure of the Commission**

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and Staff Directors on matters and issues relating to the City's archaeological program and all archaeological issues within the City. The AAC addresses their needs and concerns, as well as those of the public and the development community. A major goal is to ensure that Alexandria will remain the recognized national and international leader in community archaeology. In pursuit of that goal, the AAC has always been and will continue to be a strong advocate for the interests of Alexandria Archaeology. The expertise and extraordinary dedication of these researchers, educators and support staff are the foundation of the City's efforts in archaeological rescue and preservation. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on matter relating to the City's archaeological resources and related issues. Included among the AAC's responsibilities are the establishment of goals and priorities which contribute to Alexandria's prehistory and propose local ordinances and state statutes to the City Council and the City Manager which promote the goals and aims embodied in Resolution No. 1279; plan, develop, and recommend short-, mid- and long-term archaeological plans and programs for the City; encourage the integration of archaeological and historical information and site preservation into master plans and development efforts; study and make recommendations to City Council with respect to additional activities involving the City's archaeological program and artifacts; promote the use of the highest

professional standards by Alexandria Archaeology staff; and enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States and the world.

AAC meetings are held at least 10 times per year, on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or occasionally at other sites of interest to the Commission, e.g. Black History Resource Center. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five (5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the three planning districts and six (6) members representing various City organizations. Elections are held at the beginning of the calendar year. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (City Ordinance No. 3773, Section 2-4-81 (a)(18)(c)). In recent years the position of Secretary rotated with each meeting, but in organizing elections for officers in November of 1997, the Commission decided to elect a Secretary who would serve a one-year term. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of Fiscal Year 1998.

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Barbara Fiedler  
Jack Hranicky, Chair  
Pete Petersen  
Katherine Ellsworth  
Susan Hathcock

#### PLANNING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Planning District I: Jennifer Lee; David Albright  
Planning District II: Richard Cunningham, Secretary  
Planning District III: Bernard Brenman,

#### ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Alexandria Association: Kent Wargowsky  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Mark Fields  
Alexandria Historical Society: Paula Massouh, Vice-Chair  
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage -Margarette Cooper  
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology- Lea Fowlie  
Historic Alexandria Foundation- Sean Kelly; Michael Bradshaw

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Throughout this year the Commission was able to respond effectively on a number of fronts to situations that we felt might impact negatively on the City's historic resources. These included continuing issues such as the impact of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement and revisions to the City's Master Plan as well as more immediate problems; such as, the threatened Sunday closing of the Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory. Commission members were also able to lend their advice and expertise to City Staff and other Citizen Commissions when requested. The Commission expects to play an active role in next year's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday

celebration and has already started developing plans for various events related to Alexandria's special place in the field of urban archaeology.

## **PRESERVATION**

### **Woodrow Wilson bridge**

The major preservation issue for Fiscal year 1997 continues to be the proposed replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point, the Freedman's Cemetery and on the overall character of the Historic District. Public hearings on possible designs for the replacement crossing were attended by various Commission members, notably our officers Jack Hranicky, Paula Massouh and Rich Cunningham. The Commission has not and will not take a position favoring one design over another, but as the 12-lane bridge began to emerge as the preferred alternative, the Commission made every effort to call attention to its concerns about questions of identification of historic resources in the construction zone and the impacts that construction would have on those resources and on the historic character of the City, in general. The Commission empowered the Chair to summarize those concerns in a letter to Mayor Donley, who then included them in his own letter to the Federal Highway Administration reacting to the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Those concerns were as follows:

\*Inadequate identification of archaeological resources. Instead of conducting the survey to identify resources as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FEIS, simply assumes that archaeological resources are either nonexistent or have been destroyed by previous disturbances.

\*Inadequate consideration of mitigation measures that will be used to treat those resources that will be adversely affected. In particular, the mitigation of the profound effect that the bridge construction will have on the remains at Jones Point Park is not dealt with adequately.

\*Freedman's Cemetery. Again, the assumption is made that construction will have no negative effect on the site when its actual boundaries and extent have not been determined.

\*The Memorandum of Agreement does not address the problem of how the cultural and natural resources of the affected area will be protected from vandalism and neglect during the period of construction.

### **Other preservation issues:**

Due to the vast quantity of objects which came out of the Lee Street excavations, Alexandria Archaeology did not have the money necessary for proper conservation. Commission Chair Jack Hranicky agreed to lobby the City to invest some of the future profits from the parking lot in this project. AAC advocated additional funds for this project.

With plans for the development of the Cameron Mills site imminent, the Commission took steps to alert the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce to the presence of documented archaeological resources on the site and the need for resource protection.

During the year the Commission considered various strategies by which preservation elements of the Master Plan including a list of endangered sites might be made available in a more coherent, user-friendly form. This would be particularly useful in considering future proposed developments. Discussions of this subject are ongoing.

## EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Sunday Museum Hours:** Since the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant was not provided this year, Alexandria Archaeology lost one staff member and had to rely on members of the Archaeological Commission and Friends of Alexandria Archaeology to volunteer to work in the Museum on Sundays. It was especially important that due to our efforts, the Museum continued to be open on Sundays, since that is typically one of the days on which there are a large number of visitors.

**Waterfront Signage:** The Commission has taken an active role in making the Alexandria Waterfront's history more accessible to the public both in preserving physical remnants of the past and by increasing public knowledge. Accordingly, the Commission requested a presentation by Buffy Brownstein with the Parks & Recreation Department on her proposed integrated signage for the Waterfront. While supporting the concept of one consistent type of signage for informational markers, the Commission did not support the prototype presented by Ms. Brownstein. Instead, Commission member Katherine Ellsworth presented a review of Alexandria's existing Waterfront signage together with examples of other types of historical markers in use in this country and abroad. This information will be available to the Commission for use in any further discussions of this subject. However, the City Council decided to take no action at this time on the issue of waterfront signage.

**Hiking/Biking Program:** Alexandria Archaeology intern, Hope Johnson, continued to refine a Hiking/Biking Booklet that would guide visitors to Alexandria's historic places. The Commission formed a subcommittee to assist in getting this booklet into final publishable form and investigated costs and distribution strategies. We cooperated with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology on this project, which established the Alexandria Heritage Trail.

**250th Birthday Celebration:** The Commission has been charged by the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commission with assembling a Time Capsule to be buried as part of the Birthday observance. In recognition of this significant anniversary, the Archaeology Society of Virginia will hold annual meeting in Alexandria. In conjunction with this, AAC, FOAA and Alexandria Archaeology Staff began planning a Super Weekend of archaeology to take place in Alexandria. In all of its planning the Commission is determined to address concerns that the celebration should reflect the diversity of past and present Alexandria.



**Web Site:** The Commission now has its own web page at <http://ci.alexandria.va.us/oha/archaeology/ar-meet-commission.html>. Commission members continued to work with Alexandria Archaeology and FOAA to increase public familiarity with Alexandria's archaeological heritage through participation in Public Dig Days, the George Washington Birthday Parade, Volunteer Appreciation Party, and Historic Hauntings.

## ADVOCACY

As part of an ongoing effort to develop commission members as effective advocates for the City's historic and archaeological Resources meetings were held at a number of sites of importance to the preservation community: the Black Historic Resource Center, Alexandria Waterfront, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop Museum.

**Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum:** The financial foundation which runs the museum seeks financial support for stabilization from the City; it intends to run the museum on a day-to-day basis. AAC is on record as supporting the preservation of this unique artifact of Alexandria's commercial history, and bringing the Stabler-Leadbeater into the City's museum system and while maintaining the building to meet City codes.

**Master Plan and Quality of Life Issues:** During this year the Commission was asked to comment on both the Historic Preservation Chapter of the City's Master Plan and to identify the 5 most important environmental quality of life issues facing the City. With regard to the Master Plan the Commission endorsed the positions taken by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission that the Historic Preservation chapter of the Master Plan needs review and revision. In particular, the Commission endorsed a motion that Chair Jack Hranicky send a letter to the City Council proposing that the historic/archaeological contents of the Master Plan be cross-referenced with other portions of the plan, that the Preservation Plan be completed, and that an Environmental chapter and an Implementation section be added to the Master Plan. A subcommittee was formed to draft recommendation for the Environmental Policy Committee on Quality of Life Issues. Seven Quality of Life recommendations were eventually developed and forwarded to the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission.

**Support of Alexandria Archaeology:** The Commission continued throughout this year to assist staff of Alexandria Archaeology in carrying out their responsibilities. This included monitoring the effect on the archaeology museum from the transfer of the ownership of the Torpedo factory, advocating sufficient budgetary support for archaeology and assisting Dr. Cresses in developing and reviewing a Mission Statement and Goals for Alexandria Archaeology.

**Brennan Commemoration:** Commission recommended possible commemoration of Ben Brennan's long public service to Alexandria. Suggestions included naming either Cameron Run Park or the West End Library for him, since Ben had a long association with both these projects.

## GOALS

At the conclusion of the last fiscal year, it was decided that the Commission would function more effectively if individual members were given specific tasks to carry out. In order to put this plan into action, Vice Chair, Paula Massoud presented a list of goal-oriented projects for the Commission to consider for the coming year. Individual Commission members agreed to be responsible for specific projects. The results of this approach were mixed in that the validity of the principal of creating goal-oriented sub-committees was affirmed, but that only a small number of the goals set out in July 1997 were achieved. This was due to a number of factors, including the Commission's focus on a few central issues such as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement, while other subjects, such as Waterfront sign age or the Stabler- Leadbeater Apothecary Shop emerged as subjects of Commission interest during the course of the year. On the whole, however, the Commission was satisfied with the results of this division of responsibilities as a way of utilizing the talents and energies of Commission members. At the close of this fiscal year, for example, the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee requested that the Commission be responsible for assembling and burying a commemorative Time Capsule. Various aspects of this project as well as other activities connected with the celebration will be delegated to Commission members. Other ongoing concerns will be the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement and its impact on Freedman's Cemetery and possible revisions in the City's Master Plan. It is important however, that the Commission retains the flexibility to deal with unexpected situations which may crop up in the coming year.

**Annual Report  
for  
Fiscal Year July 1996-June 1997**

**Summary**

Fiscal Year 1997 was a year of transition for the Commission. In January 1997, Ben Brenman decided to step down as Chairman after serving in that capacity for 21 years. Jack Hranicky was elected to succeed him. Ben's leadership and extraordinary efforts on behalf of archaeology in Alexandria were recognized by a Proclamation of the City Council on April 8, 1997, citing "his unique personality, energy, creative ideas, persistence and negotiating skills."

Major areas of concern during the 1997 Fiscal Year were the impact of the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement, completion of improvements to the African-American Heritage Park and insufficient clerical support at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

**Structure of the Commission**

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and Staff Directors on matters and issues relating to the City's archaeological program and all archaeological issues within the City. The AAC addresses their needs and concerns, as well as those of the public and the development community. A major goal is to ensure that Alexandria will remain the recognized national and international leader in community archaeology. In pursuit of that goal, the AAC has always been and will continue to be a strong advocate for the interests of Alexandria Archaeology. The expertise and extraordinary dedication of these researchers, educators and support staff is the foundation of the City's efforts in archaeological rescue and preservation. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on matters relating to the City's archaeological resources and related issues. Included among the AAC's responsibilities are the establishment of goals and priorities which contribute to Alexandria's prehistory and history; propose local ordinances and state statutes to the City Council and the City Manager which promote the goals and aims embodied in Resolution No. 1279; plan, develop and recommend short-mid- and long-term archaeological plans and programs for the City; encourage the integration of archaeological and historical information and site preservation into master plans and development efforts; study and make recommendations to City council with respect to additional activities involving the City's archaeological program and artifacts; promote the use of the highest professional standards by Alexandria Archaeology staff; and enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States and the world.

AAC meetings are held 12 times per year, on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in City Hall, in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or occasionally at other sites of

interest to the Commission, e.g. Fort Ward Park. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five(5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the three planning districts and six (6) members representing various city organizations. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (City Ordinance No. 3373, Section 2-4-81 (a) (18) (c)). The position of Secretary rotates with each meeting. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of FY 97.

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Barbara Fiedler  
Margaret Gaynor  
Robert Goldberg  
Jack Hranicky, Chair  
Pete Petersen  
Katherine Ellsworth  
Susan Hathcock

PLANNING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Planning District I: Stephen Later, Jennifer Lee  
Planning District II: Jean Moore, Sandy Spencer  
Planning District III: Bernard Brenman, Chair

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Alexandria Association: Charlotte Gallagher, Kent Wargowsky  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: James Ritter, Mark Fields  
Alexandria Historical Society: Paula Massouh, Vice-Chair  
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage -Margarette Cooper  
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology- Lea Fowlie  
Historic Alexandria Foundation- Marianne Weitz, Sean Kelly

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Through our communications with the Mayor and City Council the Commission had a significant input into the formation of the City's position with regard to the proposed replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Commission members were also instrumental in the establishment of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commission.

**PRESERVATION**

The major preservation issue for FY 1997 continued to be the proposed replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and its impact on Jones Point, the Freedmen's Cemetery and the overall character of the Historic District.

At the August 1996 meeting the Commission voted to send a letter to Mayor Donley contesting the claim in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that all necessary archaeological

identification had occurred. At the February 1997 meeting the Commission voted to send another letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing our concern that the Memorandum of Agreement does not address or resolve handling of the Freedmen's Cemetery, the identification, evaluation and treatment of archaeological resources, their use in the overall planning process, and protection and mitigation measures.

As a result of the Commission's activity, the City wrote to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources stating that more identification of archaeological resources needs to be done. VDHR in turn wrote a letter to the Federal Highway Administration strongly supporting the City's position.

A few minor preservation issues from FY 1996 were resolved:

The Ford plant was demolished. Last year the Commission had expressed its sense that this was a significant building both in terms of architectural history and the history of the Alexandria waterfront. However, it was the judgment of the BAR to allow its demolition, since preservation or reuse were not workable options. No significant archaeological resources were found in test trenches; but many significant resources were recorded in a previous project.

Archaeological testing was conducted at the Old Town Village development on the site of the U.S.M. Railroad station. The most significant find was a former latrine which contained artifacts contemporary with the Civil War.

Archaeological testing at Cameron Station was completed, with no significant finds being reported.

The owners of the former presidential yacht Sequoia filed for bankruptcy. It was suggested that the City might investigate purchasing the vessel, but no further action was taken.

## **II. Education and Public Participation**

Recognizing that 1999 would mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of Alexandria and the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, the Commission, through its then Chair Ben Brendan, recommended to the City Council that it establish a 200th Birthday Commission. The Birthday Commission was duly established and the Archaeology Commission has been represented by Ben Brendan and Lea Fowlie. The Commission expects to be active in developing events and projects for the commemoration which will increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of Alexandria's archaeological resources.

Lea Fowlie and Paula Massouh have also continued to work on defining the purpose and scope of QUALITE` the technical exchange program in urban archaeology with the City of Quebec.

In order to reach a wider audience, the Commission is investigating the option of putting information about our activities on Alexandria's Web site, ALEX: The Electronic Alexandria Community.

The Commission continued to participate in and give financial support to various activities designed to promote archaeology to the general public including the George Washington's Birthday Parade, Annual Volunteer Party, Archaeology Summer Camp and Family Dig Days.

### III. Advocacy

Aside from its activities with regard to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, the Commission continues to advocate for City and private funding to meet current needs with regard to preservation of Alexandria's historic heritage and to enable the staff of Alexandria Archaeology to serve the community effectively. In FY 1997, the Commission was specifically interested in making sure that agreed upon improvements at the African-American Heritage Park were carried out. With regard to Alexandria Archaeology, the Commission is concerned that staff workload, combined with insufficient clerical support, is limiting the scope of Alexandria Archaeology's education efforts.

### IV. Goals

The Commission would function more effectively if individual members were given specific tasks to carry out. This has been considered before and we are continuing attempts to implement this suggestion. Specifically, Commission members will seek to work with Alexandria Archaeology Staff on projects where we can usefully supplement their work, such as the production of a handbook for developers on the preservation process, attend neighborhood association meetings and act as liaisons between such associations and AAC, and be more active in fund-raising for those needs which cannot be met by the City Budget.

Aside from specific projects and objectives, the Commission is involved in a long-term, critical review of how, and how successfully, we set and meet our goals.

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