


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 18, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORTS AND STRATEGIC PLAN FROM THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

ISSUE: Receipt of annual reports (Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2006) and Strategic Plan 2007-2015 from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.

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

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) has prepared reports detailing the activities of the Commission from July 2004 through June 2006. The Commission held 10 meetings in Fiscal Year 2005 and 11 meetings in Fiscal Year 2006 to discuss archaeological issues in the City.

In FY 2005, the Commission celebrated its thirtieth anniversary and was involved in discussing and making recommendations to City Council regarding Jones Point, the Gunston Hall Apartments, the Old Dominion Boat Club, Waterfront development, L'Ouverture Hospital, Freedmen's Cemetery, and the City's Open Space Plan and Strategic Plan. The Commission produced a brochure about the AAC that provides information to state and local government officials, community groups, and individuals who inquire about the AAC's mission, activities, and accomplishments. The AAC continued involvement in planning as it impacts and relates to the City's archaeological and historic resources, particularly regarding the Small Area Plans. The AAC, along with the City and Alexandria Archaeology, were collectively the recipient of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Mary Mason Anderson Williams award, and \$1,000 prize for sustained achievement in the preservation field over the past 30 years.

During FY 2006, the Commission made recommendations to City Council about Jones Point and its significant archaeological and historic resources; recommending changes to Alexandria's Strategic Plan to incorporate goals and objectives related to the "History" Principle; developing an electronic AAC "tool kit" of information and resources for state and local governments, or

other interested persons and organizations, interested in developing a community-based preservation, archaeology, or history program; discussing issues concerning the history and preservation of Alexandria's waterfront; participating in and discussing activities related to the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration; and participating in the Alexandria Economic Summit.

During Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission developed its first strategic plan to assist in guiding the AAC from 2007 to 2015. The Commission specifically produced this plan to support the City of Alexandria's 2004-2015 Strategic Plan.

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission's Strategic Plan goals include the involvement of the Commission in the following: the Preservation Summit; waterfront planning; Freedmen's Cemetery; Small Area Plans and Open Space, including Jones Point Park, Potomac Yard Park, the Wayfaring Sign Program, Braddock Metro development, Alexandria Heritage Trail interpretive signs; Jamestown 400th anniversary lectures; the Ben Brenman Award; the City's new tourism slogan; selecting the new Office of Historic Alexandria director; annual meetings with Friends of Alexandria Archaeology; public relations and promoting future museum and collections storage needs; as well as Archaeology Month and other educational programs.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission operates without funding from City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1. Alexandria Archaeological Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005
- Attachment 2. Alexandria Archaeological Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006
- Attachment 3. Strategic Plan 2007-2015

STAFF:

Pamela J. Cressey, City Archaeologist

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

For

FISCAL YEAR 2005

SUMMARY

The Commission celebrated its 30th Anniversary and during a very active year pursued its three-fold mission of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historical resources as they arose regarding issues involving development, the natural and historic environment, transportation, economy/tourism, diversity of community, and efficient, community-oriented government. During Fiscal Year 2005, the AAC was involved in: discussing and making recommendations regarding Jones Point, Gunston Hall Apartments, the Old Dominion Boat Club and Waterfront development, the L'Ouverture Hospital, and Freedmen's Cemetery as well on the City's Open Space Plan and Strategic Plan; production of a brochure on the AAC that provides information to state and local government officials, community groups, and individuals who inquire about the AAC's mission, activities, and accomplishments; and continued involvement in planning as it impacts and relates to the City's archaeological and historic resources, particularly regarding the Small Area Plans. In addition, the AAC, along with the City and Alexandria Archaeology, were collectively the recipient of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Mary Mason Anderson Williams award, and \$1,000 prize for sustained achievement in the preservation field over the past 30 years.

STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council 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. at 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.

Elections are held in October of each year. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, First and Second 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 Commission welcomed new members Janice Magnuson and Diane Riker during the year. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Ann Davin
S. Kathleen Pepper, Vice-Chair,
Acting Chair, Chair
Pete Petersen
Tim Peterson
Ted Pulliam
Bill Tabor

PLANNING DISTRICT MEMBERS:

Planning District I: Lillie Finklea
Planning District II: Donald Kent, Jr.
Planning District III: Janice Magnuson

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Alexandria Association: Diane Riker
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Vacant
Alexandria Historical Society: Bill Tabor, Secretary
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Samuel Lang
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Sandra Nail, Vice-Chair
Historic Alexandria Foundation: Walter Hall

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Commission recommends that:

- Any waterfront planning taken into account the history of the waterfront as there are only about a dozen historic structures remaining on the waterfront and all are located in this central core of waterfront from the Potomac River to Union Street. Preserving these structures and enhancing the environment around them is an important factor, which should be included in any discussion regarding the development of the waterfront, particularly since the waterfront is within the boundaries of a National and State Historic District and Alexandria's maritime heritage is the symbol of the City.
- A "people's history" of the waterfront be prepared which would provide a brief history of the waterfront in an easy to read format so that all persons involved in any discussion of the development of the waterfront are aware of the history of the area so that history can be meaningfully incorporated into any discussion of development plans.
- The Old Dominion Boat Club building be preserved on its present location as an important resource in the Alexandria Historic District.
- Small Area Plans and development of parks or open space within the City reference and incorporate the history within the boundaries of the Small Area Plans, parks, or open space so that the City's past becomes a living, visible part of the present and future.
- Archaeological assessments for open space mid-term action properties, such as Monticello Park and the George Washington Masonic Memorial, be conducted if plans for those properties change.
- Funding the general maintenance and capital improvements budget for the City's historic properties be increased and set for the remainder of the 5-year plan to ensure responsible stewardship of the properties which will attract and retain visitors to the properties and the City.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission actively worked on a variety of activities that supported the City of Alexandria 2004-2015 Strategic Plan:

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Waterfront: At the October 16, 2004, public hearing, the AAC recommended that, given the high priority ranking of waterfront property on the Open Space Proposed Action Plan, the history of the waterfront provide the framework for any waterfront planning process. The AAC noted that there are only 10 historic structures remaining on the waterfront and that preserving these structures and enhancing the environment around them is an important factor. The Commission discussed the need for the preparation of a “people’s history” of the waterfront which would provide a brief history of the waterfront in an easy to read format.

The Commission also stated that the waterfront portions of the Mount Vernon Trail have good potential for Native American sites as indicated by the proximity of the Trail to Jones Point Park which has known Native American sites within its boundaries.

Old Dominion Boat Club: The AAC toured the Old Dominion Boat Club facilities. The Commission recommends that the history of the Old Dominion Boat House, currently the oldest known building on the waterfront, should be researched and the building’s significance determined before any decisions are made regarding its future use. Such research would contribute to a greater understanding of the area’s, and the City’s, maritime heritage and the key historic events that occurred in the area. The AAC supports the preservation of the Old Dominion Boat Club building on its present location as an important resource in the Alexandria Historic District.

Gunston Hall Apartments: The Commission wrote letters to City Council and spoke at the October 16, 2004, public hearing against the proposed demolition of the Gunston Hall Apartments on Washington Street. The AAC stated that the Gunston Hall Apartments are an important part of Alexandria’s history and were designed by noted architect Harvey Warwick to fit the street and landscape requirements of the then newly built George Washington Memorial Parkway and adjoining St. Mary’s and Freedmen’s cemeteries. The AAC agreed with the Board of Architectural Review that the mass and scale of the proposed new development was inappropriate for the setting, threatened other similar historic properties on Washington Street, and would not protect or add to the charm of the Old and Historic District in which the Gunston Hall Apartments are located.

Small Area Plans & Potomac Yards Development: Members of the AAC attended the public meetings on the proposed revisions of the Mt. Vernon and Braddock Metro Area Small Area Plans, as well as the proposed further development of Potomac Yards as these areas include sites or structures of historical importance.

Carlyle Development Park: The Commission had a member attend the community public

comments workshops regarding the proposed development of a park/community space on the site of what was the Virginia Glass Company. Incorporation of the history of the site or signage interpreting the history of park were some of the suggestions made during these workshops.

THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Open Space: A member of the Commission sits on the Open Space Committee and provides input to that committee regarding issues involving archaeology, history, and preservation as related to open space. The Commission spoke at the October 16, 2004, public hearing regarding the Open Space Committee's Proposed Action Plan which set priorities for the acquisition of properties as community open space. The AAC approved of the Open Space Committee's inclusion of historic resources as one of the criteria for assessing the importance of a property for potential acquisition. The Commission also recommended that archaeological assessments for mid-term action properties, such as Monticello Park and the George Washington Masonic Memorial, be conducted if plans for those properties change.

Jones Point: The Chair of the Commission was appointed by the Mayor and City Council to serve on a Jones Point Working Group to re-visit the uses of the park since the Department of Homeland Security has stated that no activities can take place under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or within 20' of either side of the bridge. As this affects the previously approved plan for the park, the Working Group is to examine the best uses of the park, including passive areas for enjoyment of historic and natural environment portions of the park as well as active areas for various recreational and sports uses. The park has significant archaeological and historic resources dating back over 7,000 years. The Commission voted to approve a tri-partite plan which preserved the southern portion of the park for passive uses due to the significant historic and archaeological resources in that portion of the park, reserved the northern end of the park for passive environment enjoyment, and placed immediately north of the bridge, two full-sized multi-purpose athletic fields. The AAC wrote to City Council and spoke at public hearings in favor of this plan, which is essentially, in all major aspects, the same as that approved in the original plan in 1999.

ECONOMY/TOURISM

Historic Sites Maintenance Budget: The Commission wrote a letter to City Council and spoke at two public hearings recommending an increase in funding the general maintenance and capital improvements budget for the City's historic properties. The AAC stated that the educational programs and exhibits at the City's historic properties would suffer if needed maintenance and capital improvements were not funded which, in turn, would adversely affect tourism if the City's visitors' experiences were negatively impacted.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

L'Ouverture Hospital: The AAC discussed the history, and issues surrounding the proposed development, of 1323 Duke Street property on which sat a portion of the L'Ouverture Hospital during the Civil War and accordingly is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the City. It is also located near the former Bruin slave pen and the African-American Heritage Park as well as other African-American historic sites. The site owners want to build an addition and convert the property to affordable senior housing and have stated that they are willing to provide a plaque or sign on the property explaining the history and background of the site and the developer will pay for the archaeological excavations required by the City. The Commission's concern regarding this proposed development lay with ensuring that the important archaeological and historic resources were not overlooked.

Freedmen's Cemetery: Two descendants of persons buried in Freedmen's Cemetery have been located. Lillie Finklea has worked to identify descendants and attempts have been made to encourage descendants to participate in the oral history project. The Commission continues to monitor the progress of plans for this site.

EFFICIENT, COMMUNITY-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT

APVA Award: The AAC, along with the City and Alexandria Archaeology, were collectively the recipient of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Mary Mason Anderson Williams award, and \$1,000 prize for sustained achievement in the preservation field over the past 30 years. The Chair of the Commission along with Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist, and Jean Federico, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria, attended the Richmond ceremony to accept the award. Also in attendance to present the award were Senator Patsy Ticer and Delegate Brian Moran, of the General Assembly, both of whom represent the Alexandria area.

AAC 30th Anniversary: City Council issued a proclamation in February 2005 recognizing the AAC on its 30th Anniversary for its decades of service. The Commission's April 2005 meeting included over a dozen past or founding members of the Commission who shared their experiences and recollections of preservation in the City over the past 30+ years.

AAC Brochure: As part of its 30th Anniversary celebration, the Commission designed and printed a brochure describing the Commission and its mission, achievements, and goals. The brochure is available free to interested members of the public.

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
GOALS FOR FY 2006**

- Participate in City hearings and seminars, which impact archaeological and historic resources either directly through development or indirectly through short- or long-term planning.

- Develop an AAC “tool kit” of information and resources for state and local governments, or other interested persons and organizations, interested in developing a community-based preservation, archaeology, or history program. This “tool kit” will build on the information that the AAC has provided in the past two or three years to interested government officials, community groups, and individuals, such as state officials from Delaware, as well as from local government officials from Frederick, Maryland, and from Prince William and Arlington Counties, Virginia.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

for

FISCAL YEAR 2006

SUMMARY

The Commission had another very active year pursuing its three-fold mission of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historical resources as they arose regarding issues involving development, the natural and historic environment, transportation, economy/tourism, diversity of community, and efficient, community-oriented government.

During Fiscal Year 2006, the AAC was involved in:

- Discussing and making recommendations regarding Jones Point and its significant archaeological and historic resources;
- Recommending changes to Alexandria's Strategic Plan to incorporate goals and objectives related to the "History" Principle;
- Developing an electronic AAC "tool kit" of information and resources for state and local governments, or other interested persons and organizations, interested in developing a community-based preservation, archaeology, or history program;
- Discussing issues concerning the Alexandria waterfront;
- Participating and discussing activities related to the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration; and
- Participating in the Alexandria Economic Summit.

STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC or Commission) serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council 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. at 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.

Elections are held in October of each 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 Commission welcomed new member Adron Krekeler during the year. The following people served on the Commission during all or part of Fiscal Year 2005.

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Ann Davin
S. Kathleen Pepper, Chair
Pete Petersen
Tim Peterson
Ted Pulliam
Bill Tabor

PLANNING DISTRICT MEMBERS:

Planning District I: Lillie Finklea
Planning District II: Donald Kent, Jr.
Planning District III: Janice Magnuson

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Alexandria Association: Diane Riker
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: Adron Krekeler
Alexandria Historical Society: Bill Tabor, Secretary
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: Samuel Lang
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Sandra Nail, Vice-Chair
Historic Alexandria Foundation: Walter Hall

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

The Commission recommends that:

- Continued active involvement in proposals involving the Alexandria Waterfront, which contains several historic structures;
- Working with other City organizations or groups which are interested in historic preservation and the waterfront for greater co-ordination on issues concerning the waterfront;
- A “people’s history” of the waterfront be prepared which would provide a brief history of the waterfront in an easy to read format so that all persons involved in any discussion of the development of the waterfront are aware of the history of the area so that history can be meaningfully incorporated into any discussion of development plans;
- Incorporating archaeological and historic resources into discussions and planning involving tourism and economic development;
- Small Area Plans and development of parks or open space within the City reference and incorporate the history within the boundaries of the Small Area Plans, parks, or open space so that the City’s past becomes a living, visible part of the present and future.
- Funding the general maintenance and capital improvements budget for the City’s historic properties be at a level to ensure responsible stewardship of the properties, which will attract and retain visitors to the properties and the City.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission actively worked on a variety of activities that supported the City of Alexandria 2004-2015 Strategic Plan:

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Alexandria Strategic Plan: The Commission wrote two letters to City Council, talked with individual City Council members, and spoke at a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the City's Strategic Plan which would add goals and objectives for the "History" Principle to the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was ultimately modified by the City Council to include virtually all of the Commission's recommendations regarding history and preservation related goals and objectives.

The Waterfront: The Commission invited Ms. Susan Petty, Chair of the Waterfront Committee, to speak with members regarding issues affecting the waterfront, including open space, passive recreation use, historic preservation, and interpretative signage. The Commission discussed the several historic structures that remain on the south side of the waterfront. Alexandria Archaeology interns and volunteers continue working on researching the history of the waterfront area.

Small Area Plans & Potomac Yards Development: Members of the AAC attended the public meetings on the proposed revisions of the Braddock Metro Area Small Area Plan, as well as the proposed further development of Potomac Yards as these areas include sites or structures of historical importance.

THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Open Space: A member of the Commission sits on the Open Space Committee and provided input to that committee regarding issues involving archaeology, history, and preservation as related to open space.

Jones Point: The AAC wrote to City Council, and spoke at public hearings in favor of a tripartite plan which preserved the southern portion of the park for passive uses due to the significant historic and archaeological resources in that portion of the park, reserved the northern end of the park for passive environment enjoyment, and placed immediately north of the bridge, two full-sized multi-purpose athletic fields.

ECONOMY/TOURISM

Historic Sites Maintenance Budget: In November, members of the Commission attended an Historic Sites Maintenance Retreat sponsored by the Historic Area Resources Commission (HARC). The AAC also wrote a letter to City Council and spoke at public hearings

recommending funding for the City's historic properties in the general maintenance and capital improvements budget.

Preservation Summit: The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission and other Alexandria history organizations plan to host a Preservation Summit. The AAC provided suggestions for issues and speakers for the Summit through Alexandria Archaeology and through its representative on HARC.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration: The AAC discussed having a lecture series as part of Alexandria's participation in the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration. Alexandria activities for this are being coordinated by the Historic Area Resources Commission. Suggested topics included the Archaeology of Jamestown, African-Americans and Early Virginia, John Smith's Voyage up the Potomac, and Native Americans. A lecture series was approved. The resulting lecture series is being co-sponsored, in part, by Alexandria Archaeology and the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. The first of the five lectures was held on May 24, 2006, at the Lyceum and feature Dr. Dennis Pogue, Associate Director, Mount Vernon, talking about "Seventeenth Century Virginia Beyond Jamestown: What Have We Learned Since 1957?"

The Commission also supported hosting the "Godspeed" and related activities in May and June 2006 as the kickoff of the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration. The AAC wrote to City Council and spoke at a public hearing on this issue.

Freedmen's Cemetery: Commission member Lillie Finklea was featured on a Discovery Channel television show on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In the program, Ms. Finklea talked about the Freedmen's Cemetery and the work (historical, archaeological, and oral history) that is being conducted on the site.

EFFICIENT, COMMUNITY-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT

Informational "Tool Kit: Following up on an enumerated goal from the last fiscal year, the AAC discussed the development of an electronic "toolkit" that individuals, organizations, and government entities can access to learn more about the creation, function, and usefulness of a community-based archaeological board or commission which assists a local or state government in issues regarding archaeology. This "tool kit" would be made available through the Alexandria Archaeology website. It would be based on the information that the AAC provided in the past two or three years to interested government officials, community groups, and individuals, such as state officials from Delaware, as well as from local government officials from Frederick, Maryland, and from Prince William and Arlington Counties, Virginia.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Plan: The AAC began development of a 10-year strategic plan for the Commission as such a plan will help the Commission to more effectively fulfill its mission, identify potential areas or issues of concern, and respond to on-

going and proposed actions and activities within the City. The AAC's strategic plan will be structured to complement the City's strategic plan.

Board of Architectural Review: City Council member Andrew Macdonald sought the opinion of the City's history related commissions regarding the process by which Boards of Architectural Review (BAR) applicants are appointed by City Council and how preservation or history groups or organizations might comment on those applicants. The Commission discussed this issue at length. The AAC wrote to Councilman Macdonald, with copies to the other City Council members. In that letter the Commission made two recommendations: first, that the application form be modified to request BAR applicants to indicate, with specificity, their preservation, history, or archaeological background and state whether such experience or education is professional or personal, and relate this experience or education to the position being sought; and two, that City Council consider whether the BAR might better meet the needs of the City and its residents if at least one member of each BAR is required to have experience in preservation, history, or archaeology.

Alexandria Economic Summit: Members of the AAC attended the City's Economic Summit in January as representatives of the Commission. Both participated in the Tourism and Visitors roundtable discussion. Chair Kathleen Pepper was selected to present the issues and recommendations of one the sub-groups.

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
GOALS FOR FY 2007**

- Participate in City hearings and seminars that impact archaeological and historic resources either directly through development or indirectly through short- or long-term planning.
- Finalize a strategic plan for the Alexandria Archaeological Commission that will operate as a planning tool so that the Commission can work more effectively in identifying areas and issues of concern, responding to on-going and proposed actions and activities in the City, and fulfilling its mission.
- Identify and address archaeological and historic preservation issues concerning the waterfront, including participation in any fora or hearings regarding proposals for the waterfront.

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL
COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN
2007 – 2015**

Adopted by the AAC January 17, 2007



Alexandria Archaeological Commission Enabling Legislation and Responsibilities

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission was established by the Alexandria City Council as a citizen advisory board to Alexandria's Mayor and City Council on matters dealing with archaeological and historical resources located in the City of Alexandria. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission was the first such commission established in the United States. It is charged with advising on and setting policy and direction for archaeology in the City. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission's key responsibilities, as established by the City Council Resolution #371 in 1975 and updated by Resolution #3773 in 1995, are to:

- Establish goals and priorities related to Alexandria's history and heritage
- Analyze and make recommendations to the City Council concerning Alexandria's archaeology
- Promote public awareness and participation in archaeological preservation through a series of free pamphlets
- Preserve, promote and display the archaeological artifacts that have been and will be recovered in the future
- Propose local ordinances and state statutes
- Encourage integration of archaeological and historical information
- Provide archaeological recommendations to individuals and communities
- Provide an information flyer/booklet for developers/landowners

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission promotes education, protection, preservation, and study of the archaeological heritage of Alexandria through short- and long-term goals. Its members strive to meet these goals keeping in mind as their guiding principles the goals established by the Mayor and City Council in the City of Alexandria's Strategic Plan 2004 – 2015.

Guiding Principles for Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Plan

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission developed its strategic plan based upon the City Goals from the City of Alexandria 2004-2015 Strategic Plan: A Guide to the Future:

1. Quality Development And Redevelopment That Is Well Planned And Consistent With Alexandria's Vision
2. Respect, Protect, Preserve And Enhance The Natural Environment And Historic Resources
3. Integrated, Multimodal Transportation System That Efficiently And Effectively Gets People From Point "A" To Point "B"
4. A Strong Local Economy That Is Growing In Varied Small Business And Job Opportunities
5. A Caring Community That Is Diverse And Affordable
6. A City Government That Is Financially Sustainable, Efficient And Community Oriented.
7. Public Schools That Are Among The Best In Northern Virginia

Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Mission

Through community-based archaeology to discover, preserve, and tell the story of Alexandria's diverse past so that it will be an integral and visible part of visiting, living, and working in Alexandria.

Vision

The AAC will support historical awareness and citizen activism as well as promote Alexandria's leadership role in archaeology. The AAC will recognize that archaeology in Alexandria is an integral part of the planning process for development, preservation, and interpretation of the City's diverse past for the enjoyment and education of residents and visitors. The AAC will ensure that archaeology continues to be part of a community-city partnership that also values the sustainability of the historical collections in a dynamic living environment.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Goals 2007 – 2015

1. Participate in the Preservation Summit and advocate role for archaeology. (Reference City Goals 1 and 2)
2. Participate in the City's Waterfront planning process. (Reference City Goals 1 and 2)
 - a. Advocate for making history, preservation, and archaeology integral elements of the plan.
 - b. Meet with other history related organizations to develop mutually beneficial relationships to develop a multifaceted team approach to the planning process in relationship to the history of the waterfront.
3. Actively sponsor, participate, and promote all phases of the development of the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park Project. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, and 5)
 - a. Sponsor and actively participate in the opening events for the Freedmen's Cemetery project.
4. Actively promote and participate in the planning of all Small Area Plans, Parks, and Open Spaces within the City. Ensure adequate study of sites and excavation of potentially significant archaeological finds within these spaces. Advocate development and placement of interpretive signs relating to history and archaeology throughout the City. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
 - a. Engage the Yates Garden Community and the National Park Service in the planning and rehabilitation of Jones Point Park. Monitor development and placement of interpretive signs.
 - b. Continue to provide representation at Potomac Yard Park planning meetings. Promote development and placement of interpretive signs.
 - c. Comment on the City's Coordinated Wayfaring Sign Program. Monitor Heritage Trail signs within this process.
 - d. Monitor Braddock Metro development.
 - e. Advocate placement of Alexandria Heritage Trail directional signs.
 - f. Develop and ensure distribution of Alexandria Archaeology Digital Atlas.
5. Sponsor, promote, and participate in the February, May, and October Jamestown lectures. Coordinate with the Alexandria Historical Society. (Reference City Goal 2)
6. Finalize awarding criteria and nomination process for the Ben Brenman Award. (Reference City Goal 2)
 - a. Solicit nominations, review candidates, and select awardees by 30 September 2007.
 - b. Present first award in October 2007 during Archaeology Month Celebration.

7. Actively participate in the development of a new slogan for the City of Alexandria keeping in mind the City's rich history, cultural diversity, and goals for the future. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, and 5)
8. Engage (as stakeholders) in the evaluation of candidates and the selection of the next Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. (Reference City Goal 2)
9. Plan and hold annual joint meeting with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. (Reference City Goal 2)
10. Enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States, and the world. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)
 - a. Engage the city of Manchester, England, in developing a Sister Archaeological City relationship.
 - b. Publish newspaper articles relating to archaeology in Alexandria.
 - c. Maintain updated website to include an annual calendar of events relating to the history and archaeology of Alexandria.
 - d. Educate developers in the role they play in the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria's history and archaeology. Recognize their efforts.
 - e. Develop concise, readily accessible, and understandable reference guide on archaeological preservation for citizens and developers
11. Enhance the public awareness of and access to the rich archaeological history of the City through the development of an enlarged and enhanced museum and artifact storage facility. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 4, 6, 7)
 - a. Explore mutually beneficial relationships with other historical organizations within the City of Alexandria (HARC, OHA, FOAA, etc) to develop a team approach to display and storage.
 - b. Develop long-term plan for display and storage of collections.
 - c. Research and pursue funding possibilities to include public funding and private donations (Fundraising).
12. Actively promote and enhance public awareness of the educational benefits of the archaeological history within Alexandria. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 7)
 - a. Enhance educational programs available to schools to include lesson plans and meaningful museum visits.
 - b. Educate Alexandria's teachers on the archaeological history of the city.
 - c. Schedule and promote walkabouts highlighting Alexandria's archaeological history.
 - d. Promote use of the Alexandria Heritage Trail.
 - e. Plan and execute Annual Archaeology Month Celebration.