

Alexandria Historical Society Board Meeting

February 12, 2019, 6:30-7:30pm, Conference Call

Attending: Debbie Ackerman, Caroline English, Steve Kimbel, Krystyn Moon, Severiano Ortiz, Fran Bromberg, Erin Bush, Tal Day, Ginny Hamill, Catherine Weinraub (notes)

Not attending: Audrey Davis, Elizabeth Peckham, Patrick Ladden

Began 6:33pm

1. **Approve November board meeting notes**-Fran changed minutes by adding Wally's last name, which is Owen. All were in favor and approved.
2. **Plans for Spring 2019**

- a. March 27: Zachary Schrag, ***Thinking Big: Lessons from the Washington Metro.***

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- b. April 24: **AHS Award Event**

- c. May 22: Cynthia Kierner, ***We Cannot be Tame Spectators": Three Centuries of Virginia Women's History***, Professor of History George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

- d. June 26: Eleanor Breen, Archaeologist, City of Alexandria

In 2012, City Council approved a plan to revitalize Alexandria's historic waterfront. Just as Alexandrians sought to transform their sleepy tobacco town into a prosperous port, so too do today's residents envision a viable and vibrant waterside destination. Because of the unique, 30-year old Archaeology Protection Code requiring excavation prior to certain development projects, Alexandria Archaeology geared up for a period of intensive focus on some of the most historically significant areas within the National Register Old and Historic District. Block by block, project by project, the remains of wharves, warehouses, dwellings, industries, privies, and of course four ships have begun to emerge from the waterlogged depths at the river's edge. Even as individual features and artifact assemblages, these finds are highly significant, but when taken together along with a wealth of historical documentary data, a maritime cultural landscape is taking form. This presentation offers a tour of the archaeological evidence of the diverse neighborhoods, bustling wharves, and massive land making efforts that characterized the Alexandria seaport at the turn of the eighteenth century.

3. T. Michael Miller Award

Julia noted that it is going well after a rocky start. While letters were given to OHA November 30, ready to be mailed December 3, there was a hold up in the post room

and did not get mailed until later. There are two nominations in hand, with 1, maybe two more possibly coming. Deadline is March 1.

Committee has been partially constituted of Steve, Fran and Catherine. Usually there is someone from off the Board. This year everyone Julia has asked is nominating someone or helping with nominations.

Meeting is March 7 or 8, then name will be given to Debbie for engraving.

Debbie chimed in that speaker will be Gretchen Bulova.

4. Chronicle update

Tal started off by noting that a prior article on sewerage has been sent to VAR and City Planning.

This coming Chronicle will have an article by Terry Zerwick, whose ancestor was a surgeon. The second article is written by Dan Lee about the split off from Beth El, which created Agudas Achim.

He has sent out the second draft with comments and hopes to have it in the mailbox before the lecture in March.

5. Newsletter update

Elizabeth not on phone to present

6. Plans for Fall 2019

Catherine presented for Audrey on behalf of the Programs Committee

- a. Confirmation of Char Bah for Wednesday, September, 25 at 7:30pm**
- b. Other possible speakers**

Need a speaker for October. Audrey is pursuing *Building the Federal Schoolhouse: Localism and the American Education State (Studies in Postwar American Political Development)* 1st Edition by Douglas S. Reed (Author) Georgetown University

Also need a speaker for March. Possible ideas – *Managing White Supremacy* by Doug Smith.

c. AHS event

Ideas include - **Possible Film Screening: Food and Film**

25-minute film – *The Hail Storm* about Richmond's African American Chef John Dabney

Possible AHS Field Trip:

New Exhibition Opening February 10
John Marshall: Hidden Hero of National Union

Harriet Tubman City Tour

Members Only –

Ivy Hill Cemetery Tour

The rest of spring is confirmed. April is the AHS History Awards. May will be Rabbi David Spinrad and the history of Jewish immigration in Alexandria. Krystyn mentioned that the Rabbi from Agudas Achim could possibly collaborate. Tal brought up that if the October lecture is confirmed, he could advertise in the spring Chronicle.

Steve brought up how to register for events with the code. Krystyn said she would have Elizabeth put in the newsletter again.

Publicity for press was touched on. The Alexandria Times has folded, but the Zebra and Gazette are still in existence, as well as the online Patch. Fran and Krystyn will talk later about this topic. Tal feels we should share our information with the Arlington Historical Society and Fran says she can share with the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology. Someone should do Twitter and Facebook, possibly with images.

7. Treasurer report

As of February 2019, Society is in good standing, with 148 members. As new members

are joining, past Chronicle has been mailed to them.

Something to explore in March is whether to bring Chronicles to events.

8. Correspondence

Steve emailed inquiries to the Board prior to the meeting.

9. HARC

Office of Historic Alexandria will be commemorating Preservation Month in May with Maritime Day on May 10.

Freedom House and OHA are still in negotiations with each other.

Official name for park is Waterfront Park for both of them.

219 King St-restaurant renovations were contested.

75th Anniversary of D-Day will be celebrated

More signage will be put up around the city

Misha's will move to Union Street

Smithsonian has a new Director

10. Archaeology

No February meeting yet

11. Other news

Debbie mentioned former Board Member Linda Greenberg writes a genealogy column for the Zebra paper.

Krystyn motioned for meeting to adjourn. Ginny seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.