

HARC Advocacy Meeting May 7, 2024 Notes
La Madeleine, 10-11 am
Present: Gail Rothrock, Donna DeBlasio
Public Participation: Martha Raymond, Bill Dickinson

Discussion Items:

Torpedo Factory Task Force reconvened without a HARC representative, although HARC members Lisa Schumacher and Ivy Whitlach attended representing other organizations (artists and AAC). Martha Raymond shared copies of series of letters which HARC had sent on behalf of the historic significance of the Torpedo Factory to city officials:

- 2020 to Mayor Wilson about the Torpedo Factory action plan which did not include any mention of the structure's historical significance.
- 2021 to Mayor Wilson and City Council, expressing concern that proposed Torpedo Factory Art Center Implementation Strategy would destroy historic elements of the Torpedo Factory building.
- 2022 to the Board of Architectural Review to support individual listing of the Torpedo Factory on the National Register of Historic Places
- 2023 to City Manager Jim Parejon supporting individual NRHP listing.

None of these letters received responses from city officials.

Development Project Updates:

301. N. Fairfax Street condo project - BAR on May 15, 2024 for a certificate of appropriateness. The case of whether the group filing a lawsuit to the Circuit Court has standing was heard by a judge on May 6, and was taken under advisement.
2. The Coalition for A Livable Alexandria's lawsuit of Zoning for Housing ordinance will be heard May 8 by the Circuit Court.

Freedom House Comprehensive Plan

Donna reported on the April 30, 2024 Stakeholders meeting, where the operational plan was presented by Smith Group and OHA. The link to the full report:
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/museums/comprehensive-plan-freedom-house-museum>

Murray-Dick-Fawcett House Comprehensive Planning - The stakeholders meeting will be either Tuesday May 14, 2024, 5-8PM or Wednesday May 15 from 1-4:00 PM. Gail will be going as the HARC rep; Donna will also be attending.

Follow up needed: Gail reminded that the Old Town Civic Association in April had a presentation by Matt Landis of the City's Project Implementation Team about a Pumping Station proposed in the Waterfront Park, and that the project should be presented to HARC.

Other issues: Bill Dickenson reported that the City Budget allocated \$110 million for renovation of City Hall. This should be on HARC's horizon.

Gail noted the passing of Dr. Morgan Delaney long time president of the Historic Alexandria Foundation. See link to article in Alexandria Times May 2, pp 20-21 <https://alextimes.com/2024/05/dr-morgan-delaney-former-gw-doctor-haf-president-dies-at-77/>

Next meeting -Tuesday June 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM at La Madeleine