

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 15, 2022

PRESENT:

Carol Black	Rosemarie Esber	Danny Smith
Shawn Eyer	Mark Farkus	Martha Harris
Michael Hobbs	Laura Lieberman	Sam Hoffman
Deborah Osborne	Richard Klingenmaier	Linda Lovell
Steve Stuart	Gail Rothrock	Tom Soule
Martha Raymond	Ivy Whitlatch	Catherine Weinraub

EXCUSED:

Andrea Tracey
Monica St. Dennis

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Yvonne Callahan, Vice President of the Old Town Civic Association
Al Cox
Linda Couture

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Bill Conkey, Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

Approval of Minutes for January 18, 2022:

On a motion by Gail Rothrock and seconded by Steve Stuart, HARC voted to approve the January 18, 2022 minutes.

New Business:

Yvonne Callahan, along with Gail Rothrock, spoke on the curb cut at 322 South Lee Street. A motion to monitor the situation and authorize Chairman Smith to send a letter regarding HARC's opinion on the matter was made by Carol Black and seconded by Michael Hobbs. Motion carried.

Special note: By Linda Lovell, recognizing the 50th anniversary of Danny and Nancy Smith.

Commissioner Updates:

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Appointed Amanda Roper as museum director. Ms. Roper has worked for the museum for 5 years.
- Civil War medicine lectures planned for March
- Events Website: [Lee Fendall House Museum Events](#)

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the church
- Lecture by Don Dahlman on the church history was recorded

Rosemarie Esber – Planning District 1

- Attended the Fort Ward Public Meeting, impressed with planning and updates. Recommends watching the recording on the OHA website.

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Feb 19 at 1 p.m. Symposium, free and open to the public: David O. Stewart speaking on George Washington’s Political Education. Live stream link on website.
- George Washington Birthday Annual Gala on February 26th is sold out!

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2

- Working with Showtime, An Imperfect Union series with strong female and African American characters. Will be shooting in Alexandria.

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property

- Carlyle House held a “content refresh lecture” for volunteers
- New staff member, Randi Boord

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (no update at this time)

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1

- Montgomery Center being redeveloped by Carr Companies
 - [Montgomery Center Redevelopment](#)
- Transpotomac Plaza office complex is being redeveloped as residential, with retail and arts components. Will also include affordable housing.
 - [Tide Lock Redevelopment Concept](#)
- More generally, in the Old Town North area, a number of new projects are going up, many as adaptive reuse or redevelopment of laggard office/retail properties. Most projects are condos and multifamily residential.
- HARC may want to look at this area, for a few reasons:
 - Maintain Old Town character
 - Monitor open space plans and ensure they conform to the small area plan
 - Place markers on historic trails that pass through Old Town North
 - Place markers (ask developers to get involved/engaged) at any of these redevelopment sites with significant history

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- Has returned to in-person meetings
- Updated the website and interested in attracting new members

Linda Lovell – Mortar and Pestle Society

- Upcoming board meeting
 - Stay tuned for the dedication of the NHL plaque at the Apothecary
 - Medical fact: First successful blood transfusion took place at today's Lee Fendall House
- Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission
- Nine easement properties in the process of inspection
 - In January, AHRPC sent a letter to the new City Manager addressing commission six priorities

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services building (1980's Art Deco-inspired architecture) slated for demolition, was concerned and reached out Bill Hendrickson. Hendrickson concerned by overall loss of architectural continuity and loss of residential character in Del Ray and interested in working to update the Mount Vernon Avenue plan.

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation

- Hoping to have HAF Annual Meeting in June

Monica St. Dennis – Public Records Advisory Commission (excused absence)

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (no update at this time)

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3 (no update at this time)

Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House (excused absence)

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society

- March 30th lecture, Ebony Davis will be providing an update on the reparations project by the Virginia Theological Seminary

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Member of AAC sits on Waterfront Commission, sharing information about necessary archaeology planned for Founder's Park as part of the upcoming flood mitigation
- Archaeology working on new logo
- Provided orientation packets to each City Councilmember and the new City Manager, including publications
- Planning to set up zoom calls with new councilmembers and the manager
- AAC and FOAA plan to march in the 2/21 GW Parade

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- George Washington Birthday celebration is in February
- Planning for this year's parade to take place
- "George Washington's Alexandria" Tour – Sundays in February at 2 p.m.
- Check WashingtonBirthday.com

Old Business:

Torpedo Factory (Danny Smith)

- Martha Raymond reported on the February 1 HARC Advocacy Subcommittee discussion about the TFAC
 - Interested in advocating for the TFAC to become an individual listing on the National Register

- Drafted a summary of character defining features, utilizing a preservation brief by the National Park Service
- Martha Harris asked City staff about process for nominating the TFAC as a National Register site. Gretchen Bulova and Bill Conkey provided information on the process.
- Discussion about listing of the Alexandria Historic District on the National Register, and if the TFAC is a contributing structure to that listing. Al Cox, meeting guest, provided additional information. He confirmed that the process and evaluation of a project during development would be the same as if a separate National Register site.
- Agreed to send a letter to City Manager with request to sign off on the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for VDHR review, initiating the process for National Register nomination.
- Martha Raymond will take the lead to draft a letter to the BAR expressing HARC's interest and concern about the TFAC. Letter to be discussed at the March 15 meeting.
- Martha Harris asked to circulate the 2016 PIF to the full membership of HARC.

River Renew (Ivy Whitlach)

- Public notice requesting applications to the stakeholder process

Elks Lodge Update (Carol Black)

- Waiting on National Trust Grant awards
- Exploring VDHR survey and cost share program

Standing Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee – Martha Raymond, Co-Chair (Content of meeting previously discussed)

OHA Support – Steve Stuart, Chair

- Almost finished with new councilmember packets
- Noted that 6 HARC seats up for renewal/replacement

Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard Klingenmaier, Chair

- Committee reviewed existing vacant position on HARC
- In previous HARC meeting, proposed removing 6 positions that are currently vacant. Not ready to act on this tonight.
- Discussed broadening position held by the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage to include “or equivalent organization” – identical to Alexandria Archaeology Commission (AAC) draft language.
- Motion by Michael Hobbs to request a charter change to read or “comparable organization.” Motion did not receive a second.
- Motion to request a language charter change, in tandem with the AAC, made by Richard Klingenmaier and seconded by Tom Soule. Amendment offered by Carol Black, that OHA work with the City Attorney to align the language of the AAC and HARC request. Accepted by Klingenmaier. Second withdrawn by Soule. Second by Black. Final motion: Request a language charter change to match the AAC's wording, with coordination from the City Attorney. Motion carried.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey

- Holiday Inn (First Street) is making a variety of changes to the building including painting the exterior gray to match their “brand.”
 - Motion for HARC to speak at tomorrow’s BAR meeting made by Martha Harris, seconded by Richard Klingenmaier. Gail Rothrock has agreed to make a statement on behalf of HARC.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- Freedom House Museum
 - Working toward our goal of reopening to the public by the end of April with 3 new exhibitions. The text is now in design and out of our hands!
 - Interior repainted, track lighting installed, and new carpet is due next week.
 - Training new front-line staff, some training with Sites of Conscience
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
 - Roofing work is concluding
 - Will begin phase 2, exterior siding restoration and wood renewal
 - This phase includes some archaeology around the foundation
 - Working with paint analysts and dendrochronologist to identify the original color and species of wood on the exterior of the 1772 façade
 - Plan to do a public lecture this spring on our research and restoration plans
- FY23 budget in progress
 - The City Manager will virtually present his proposed budget to the public on Thursday, February 17, at 7 p.m. City Council will hold nine work sessions throughout the spring to review the proposed budget with City staff.
 - Advocating in Richmond for the \$500,000 in Governor’s FY23 budget to support the preservation of Douglass Cemetery. Additional budget amendment of \$500,000 thanks to Delegate Bennett-Parker and Senator Ebbin.
- Hired Tiffany Pache as the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project coordinator, funded through ARPA through December 2024.
- Series of Black History Month programming in place. Feb 16, there is a free film screening & discussion of Odessa’s Reign with local film maker Robin Hamilton.
[Film Screening and Talk Back](#)
- Encourage participation in the many George Washington celebration events this weekend – including the parade on Monday, February 21st.
- New City Website will be debuted on February 24th. We are finalizing the reformatting of our pages and photos.
- Zoom meetings are authorized through June 30, 2022.

- Follow up from Al Cox: Recommend watching Preservation Virginia presentation by Don Rypkema, an internationally recognized preservation economist, who gave a terrific presentation on the economic benefits of preservation. Historic districts are very pretty and culturally significant, but the economics are important as we recover from the pandemic. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_j0Fic-qH0

The next meeting will be held via zoom on March 15th at 7:00 p.m.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, Director, OHA