

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

PRESENT: (in person)

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Rosemarie Esber | Mark Farkus |
| Martha Harris | Michael Hobbs |
| Linda Lovell | Richard Klingenmaier |
| Martha Raymond | Gail Rothrock |
| Danny Smith | |

PRESENT: (participating by conference line)

Carol Black
Shawn Eyer
Deborah Osborne

EXCUSED:

Sam Hoffman
Laura Lieberman
Tom Soule
Steve Stuart
Andrea Tracey
Ivy Whitlatch
Catherine Weinraub

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Sean Ferguson, PRAC (applying for membership on HARC)
Al Cox

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Bill Conkey, Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:02 p.m. at the Lloyd House. There is no quorum for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes for March 15, 2022:

Postponed to the May meeting for approval, pending quorum.

Chairs Update:

- Noted the passing of Commissioner Andrea Tracey's mother, funeral arrangements were circulated by email

Commissioner Updates:

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House (no update at this time)

Rosemarie Esber – Planning District 1

- Lot of work going on at Hoof's Run by River Renew
- A portion of the Alexandria African American Heritage Park is closed at this time

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial (no update at this time)

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (no update at this time)

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property

- Carlyle House events of interest:
 - April 23, 10 a.m. tour on the Green Family Cabinet Makers
 - May 8th Mother's Day Tea
 - May 14th Chocolate Tasting Event
 - Yoga is restarting on the terrace

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- OTCA held its first in-person meeting last week
- May 11, next meeting with the new City Manager Jim Parajon
- OTCA interested in many of the same issues as HARC (TFAC, curb cuts, increasing height restrictions in certain districts)
- City zoom meetings have been useful to keep citizens up to date on city projects

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- Jay Robert Stiefle, Library Company of Philadelphia, gave a talk on the Library Company's clock collection

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society (and also for the Alexandria Historical Society)

- Mortar & Pestle
 - National Historic Landmark plaque dedication ceremony planned for May 20th at 10 a.m.
 - Open house at the Apothecary to follow the dedication ceremony
 - Leadbeater descendant has donated family portraits to the OHA collection. The portraits, John Leadbeater and Mary Stabler Leadbeater, are undergoing conservation.
- Alexandria Historical Society
 - April 27, annual history awards to local High Schools at The Lyceum

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- Working on an article on easements, including photos from existing homes with easement
- Still looking into the financial incentives (pro's and con's) for easements
- Subcommittee established to look at African American sites eligible for easements
- Exploring open space as contributing to easements

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Brought to everyone's attention SaveDelRay.org, preserve the history, character, and vibrancy of Del Ray

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- June 5, return of the annual HAF garden party at the “Lafayette House”
- Grant applications are due May 1, \$5,000 to \$10,000

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (excused absence)

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3 (excused absence)

Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House (excused absence)

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (excused absence)

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (excused absence)

Danny Smith – Business Representative (no update at this time)

Meeting guest Sean Ferguson offered updates from PRAC on the renovation of the Archives building, University of MD interns scanning 1920s to 1995 council meeting minutes, and plans for the 40th anniversary celebration of the Archives program in Alexandria in 2023.

New Business:

Proposed change to the zoning ordinance, changing section 7-703B (introduced by Michael Hobbs)

- The City is proposing a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that expands the applicability of Section 7-700 as incentive for the provision of low- and moderate-income housing.
- **7-703 – (B)** *“Height may not be increased pursuant to this section by more than 25 feet beyond the height otherwise permitted by this ordinance; provided, however, that no building located in any zone or height district where the maximum allowable height is 50 feet or less may be allowed to exceed such height limits.”*
- Discussion took place regarding height, effect on historic districts.
- Public information sessions were held on April 7 (recommend watching 1 hour 45 min into presentation) and April 12 <https://www.alexandriava.gov/zoning/bonus-height>.
- The meeting process was shared: Community meeting, planning commission (May 3 meeting), City Council.
- Action item from discussion: request presentation by Nancy Williams, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning, at the next HARC meeting.

Old Business:

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group (Danny Smith)

- Memo from City Manager Parajon sent and distributed to HARC, formally asking HARC to be a member of the stakeholder group.
- Chairman Smith recommended that the well written letter prepared by the HARC Advocacy Committee to the Planning Commission be held for now, to be referred after the stakeholder group has met.
- Commissioner Lovell nominated Commissioner Raymond to serve as the HARC representative on the Stakeholder Group, though no formal vote can be taken tonight. The idea of an alternate was considered, to ensure that all meetings are attended.
- Commissioner Harris expressed concern about the timeline for the Vibrancy Study, speculating that meetings won't begin in earnest until the fall and expressed concern that the national register concept may lag.

HARC Ordinance Change (Danny Smith)

- HARC composition request to City Council was approved on the consent calendar, April 6, 2022.
- Council meeting attended by Chairman Smith.

Hotel AKA Status (Danny Smith)

- Stain color received conditional approval by BAR, brick needs to be more visible.

Elks Lodge Update (Carol Black and Gail Rothrock)

- Did not advance in the application process for funding from the National Trust African American Cultural Action Fund Grant.
- Historic Black Elks Lodge #48 participating in this year's Spring2Action program to fund kitchen items. <https://www.spring2action.org/organizations/alexandria-elks-lodge-48>.
- Held a successful Easter program in the community.
- Working to clean up the building, with input from the Fire Marshall.

Curb Cut at 322-324 South Lee (Danny Smith)

- Statement made by Chairman Smith to the Board of Zoning Appeals, April 11 meeting, was circulated to HARC members.

Standing Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee – Martha Raymond, Co-Chair

- Next meeting May 3 at 10 a.m. at La Madeleine, 500 King Street
- Focus has been the Torpedo Factory national register nomination
- Issues to revisit include Jones Point maintenance and cobblestones on Prince Street

OHA Support – Steve Stuart, Chair (absent, no report)

Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard Klingensmaier, Chair

- Society for the Preservation of Black History position now open to “equivalent” history organizations, approved by City Council on April 6.
- Meeting will be held prior to the May 17 meeting to continue to discuss the reorganization of HARC.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey

- 699 Prince Street, hotel at the corner of Prince and S. Washington Street. Changes requested by VDHR.
- 615 and 621 King Street concept review/demolition, attending May 5 meeting.
- 912 King Street certificate of appropriateness approved
- 116 S. Henry Street partially approved, attending May 5 meeting with revisions.
- 10 Duke Street (warehouse project), laser scans and documentation completed on building. Approval expired during COVID, but now have re-approval.
- Former Banana Republic/Gap store received approval to combine floor plans and add second floor windows.
- 115 S. Washington St, Education Building, has application to board for approvals. Hopeful that work will be continuing.
- 325 S. Washington received their Certificate of Occupancy.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- Earl Lloyd State Historic Marker
 - Unveiled Saturday, April 2nd. Audience of 50+ people attended the event, including Lloyd family members and basketball colleagues.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
 - Planning for the April 23 Remembrance of Joseph McCoy
- Spring2Action to support the upcoming exhibit at The Lyceum
 - Wednesday, April 27th all day
 - Donations this year will support the upcoming exhibit at The Lyceum, Alexandria Hospital, Women Mobilize the Community. Hoping to raise \$20,000. Exhibit will open October 27th.
 - Hosting a “power hour” reception at Lloyd House, 6 to 8 p.m. All are welcome.
- Friendship Firehouse Hose Reel return event, April 30 at 1 p.m.
 - “Movement” of the Hose Reel into the historic firehouse, per Fire Department protocol as well as talk by the conservator
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
 - 250th anniversary of the original portion of the structure and are planning Sidewalk Talks at 10 a.m. each Saturday in May for Historic Preservation Month.
- National Historic Landmark plaque at the Apothecary Museum
 - Dedication ceremony planned for Friday, May 20th at 10 a.m.
- Alexandria Archaeology ship ponding
 - Exhibit at the TFAC open April 8th, gallery with models of the 3 excavated ships
 - Ship ponding process has started with contractor meetings. Public hours will be planned on Sunday, May 15.
- Freedom House Museum
 - Formal opening planned for May 26. Details to follow.
- Linda Lovell added that the Prince Street Fire Station floor is being excavated, with staff archaeologists finding a privy, well, and associated artifacts. The floor was sinking and is undergoing restoration.

Public Comment:

- Attendee Sean Ferguson expressed his interest in being the PRAC representative.

The next meeting will be held May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lloyd House.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, Director, OHA