

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 17, 2022

PRESENT: (in person)

Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Shawn Eyer
Mark Farkus
Martha Harris
Michael Hobbs
Richard Klingenmaier
Deborah Osborne
Martha Raymond
Gail Rothrock
Danny Smith
Steve Stuart
Ivy Whitlatch

PRESENT: (participating by conference line)

Sam Hoffman
Laura Lieberman
Catherine Weinraub

EXCUSED:

Rosemarie Esber
Linda Lovell
Tom Soule

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Al Cox, Citizen
Sean Ferguson, PRAC (applying for membership on HARC)
Lisa Schumaier, Torpedo Factory (applying for membership on HARC)

CITY STAFF:

Liz Williams, OHA
Gretchen Bulova, OHA (absent)
Bill Conkey, Planning (absent)

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:06 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.

Approval of Minutes for March 15 and April 19, 2022:

On a motion by Gail Rothrock and seconded by Mark Farkus, HARC voted to approve the March 15 minutes.

On a motion by Michael Hobbs and seconded by Richard Klingenmaier, HARC voted to approve the April 19 minutes with amendments suggested by Carol Black.

Chairs Update:

- Resignation of Andrea Tracey, Carlyle House representative
- Congratulations to Carol Black for her work to get Elks as Spring2ACTion organization

Brief Presentation about Gadsby's Tavern Museum by Liz Williams, Museum Director

Commissioner Updates:

In-person commissioners introduced themselves and gave summary of their organization and some brief updates where notes

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- OTCA held its second in-person meeting last week where attendees met with the new City Manager Jim Parajon
- Meeting was well attended - talked about a lot of same issues as HARC has interest in, including National Register designation for Torpedo Factory

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Discussion about 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue building demolition and new construction that is of concern to the SaveDelRay.org group and others.

Lisa Schumaier - Torpedo Factory (not yet official member)

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Alexandria Archaeology is getting involved in Samuel Madden Housing, Section 106 issue

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Christopher Brownlowe – Athenaeum, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Shared their dual mission of arts and historic preservation
- Preservation work is being done on the courtyard bricks this summer

- Lots of people coming back to the space.

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Carlyle House

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- June 5, return of the annual HAF garden party at the “Lafayette House”

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Interns working on scanning city council minutes + annual reports
- Facing some space issues for permanent records
- Mentioned the fire stair for the facility is in desperate need of replacement

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

New Business:

Old Business:

New building height limits proposal (Danny Smith)

- Public meeting Thursday (virtual) 7pm
- Zoning will be talking about proposal
- Encourage all to attend
- Will distribute link after the meeting

Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholder Task Force (Danny Smith)

- Last meeting without quorum - discussed who would be HARC rep on the task force.
- Consensus at the last meeting was Martha Raymond as the nominee with Linda Lovell as the alternate
 - Motion: Martha Harris
 - Second: Gail Rothrock
 - Discussion -
 - Ivy: Key to success to change the dynamics there - back to concept to Art and History center. Linda would be able to balance both subjects. Suggests she be the nominee
 - Steve - does Linda want to make this switch? Danny responded - She is overloaded however would do it
 - Martha - maybe they can be co-representatives? However this would prove technically challenging based on seats on task force
 - Discussion of Section 106 emphasis
 - Motion to split vote? - none made
 - Original Motion approved. Martha Raymond will serve as the HARC nominee with Linda Lovell as the alternate. Stakeholder Group will be advised of HARC representatives

Elks Lodge Update (Carol Black and Gail Rothrock)

- Spring2ACTION success! \$2,100 and additional offline donations

- Carol sees the long game of organizational success as important
- Can't tell you how much it has done for the Elks through this process!

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

- Applicant asked for a deferral, now in June meeting
- Danny will make statement on behalf of HARC against the request. Encouraged others to write letters in opposition.

Standing Committee Reports;

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project

- We need to identify a new representative since Andrea Tracey resigned. Mark Farkus has volunteered
 - Motion: Deborah Osborne
 - Second: Ivy Whitlatch
 - Motion approved

Advocacy – Martha Harris and Martha Raymond, Co-Chairs

- Height limit
 - Draft proposed changes to the zoning code — it is hard to tell where and what the impacts will be. However, 70' – 75' height limits in and near historic sites and low/moderate scale residential, in practice, would overwhelm those resources, to great detriment. This was a discussion item in subcommittee. The impacts need to be more specifically outlined by the planning office where you can support affordable housing + historic preservation
 - Authorize chair of HARC, in consultation with the Advocacy Committee co-chairs to represent HARC by letter or testimony as they determine most effective at upcoming public meetings on the proposed (draft) height limit changes.
 - *These adjustments were discussed to be included with motion language - specify by name Parker Gray + include other 100-year buildings, in addition to Old Town and other historic resources. Height increases are not appropriate in these areas.*
 - Motion: Martha Raymond
 - Second: Michael Hobbs
 - Discussion -
 - Find out more information with discussions with Planning + OTCA. Perhaps Old Town is not part of this Height limit change but the map still shows it.
 - Still want to make clear we want clarity on this change, how it would affect zones, etc.
 - Our role is preservation. Just say no.
 - Advocacy Committee members will strengthen the language in our letter and testimony.
 - Motion approved
- Torpedo Factory letter regarding nomination to National Register

- Modified information only letter to the BAR from April.
- Send letter with adjusted language:
 - Motion: Martha Harris
 - Second: Mark Farkus
- Motion passed
- Send copy of letter and whole TFAC package to HARC members

Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard Klingenmaier, Chair

- Report is done and ready to be submitted for discussion and recommendations
- Work better with fewer numbers (26 to 21 seats), but still representing all the groups that touch historic resources
- Danny wanted to start talking about it tonight but running out of time.
- Martha Harris - asked that everyone look at the mandate of HARC. There is a reason why business/tourism community is included. Danny agreed to distribute the HARC mission statement to commissioners.
- Carol - feel it is an obligation to take these recommendations back to the organization you represent
- Ivy - is it HARC's roll to engage with the organizations vs. the representative to share potential changes?
- Process moving forward - Vote for change, forward to city attorney, then to City Council

OHA Support – Steve Stuart, Chair

- Nothing new to report

Open Space – Martha Harris

- Nothing new to report

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group

- Nothing new to report
- HARC will submit Martha Raymond's name formally for this task force

Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey

- Not in attendance. Report submitted electronically

OHA Report: Liz Williams on behalf of Gretchen Bulova

- FY23 budget was approved on May 3rd. We received additional funding for a Development Officer, documentary on the lynchings of McCoy and Thomas, development of a school program in collaboration with ACRP – to name a few items.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
 - Planning for the August 9th Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas
 - Working on descendant outreach to both the McCoy and Thomas families
 - Wrapping up the final details for the ACRP pilgrimage to EJI in October
 - Planning a soil collection ceremony for Sept 24th.

- Spring2ACTion to support the upcoming exhibit at The Lyceum
 - Wednesday, April 27th all day fundraising was successful, raising close to \$10,000 for the exhibit
 - Donations this year will support the upcoming exhibit at The Lyceum, Alexandria Hospital, Women Mobilize the Community. Exhibit will open October 27th.
 - Thanks to the many HARC members who contributed to the fundraiser and attended our in-person Power Hour event – we raised an additional \$500 through our power hour!
- Friendship Firehouse Hose Reel return event, held on April 30
 - “Movement” of the Hose Reel into the historic firehouse, per Fire Department protocol as well as talk by the conservator
 - Well attended!
 - Planning to send off the Historic Pumper in August
- 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 on view, gallery with models of the 3 excavated ships
 - Ship ponding process has started with contractor meetings. Public event a tremendous success.
 - Fantastic press about this innovative preservation technique.
- Freedom House Museum
 - Formal opening planned for May 27. You should have received an invitation from Gretchen Bulova to reserve your advance tickets online.

Public Comment:

The next meeting will be held June 21 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Williams, OHA