

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Carol Black  
Shawn Eyer  
Mark Farkus  
Sean Ferguson  
Martha Harris  
Michael Hobbs  
Richard Klingenmaier  
Martha Raymond  
Gail Rothrock  
Danny Smith  
Steve Stuart  
Rosemarie Esber  
Linda Lovell  
Lisa Schumaier  
Tom Soule  
Catherine Weinraub  
Ivy Whitlatch

**EXCUSED:**

Christopher Brownlowe  
Sam Hoffman  
Laura Lieberman  
Deborah Osborne

**ABSENT:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Michele Longo, OHA

**Visit of HARC Members to the Apothecary Museum:** 6 to 7 p.m. to tour the site.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:04 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

### **Approval of Minutes for June 21, 2022:**

On a motion by Steve Stuart and seconded by Martha Harris, HARC voted to approve the June 21, 2022 minutes as amended. Amendments to the June Minutes are as follows:

- Under guests, Esther White was representing AAC, not FOAA
- Under New Building Height Proposal in Old Business:
  - The bullet “HARC has a letter included with the June 23 Docket” should be updated for clarity to say “HARC’s May 19 letter to the Planning & Zoning Department is included with the Planning Commission’s June 23 Docket.
  - Adjust the bullet beginning “Tom Soule” to read “Tom Soule moved that the Chair make a *further* statement at the Planning Commission meeting on behalf of HARC, reinforcing concerns expressed in *the May 19* letter.

### **Chairs Update:**

Danny Smith had no updates at this time.

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- The church celebrated their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Dave Heiby is offering a fantastic graveyard walking tour Saturdays at 11 a.m. in the Wilkes Street cemetery.

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (no update at this time)

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (excused absence)

Rosemarie Esber – Planning District 1

- Attended River Renew presentation at the African American cemetery, where AlexRenew noted the tunnel projects should be complete by 2026. She recommended visiting their facility, which includes a community room.
- Linda noted she has seen signage announcing the return of AlexRenew’s “Sip and Talk” program Thursday evenings in August.
- Multiple people commended AlexRenew’s work to be transparent and effectively share their information with the community.

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Shawn invited HARC to attend the Scottish Freemasonry in America Symposium the first weekend of November. Details are available online.

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

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- The Archives and Records Center had its first researching scholar visit in a very long time.
- Access for researchers has been limited due to legal concerns about private information in the records. Generally, access is conducted through FOIA requests. Some records are digitized, and digitization is an ongoing project. However, this is an opportunity to reevaluate access policies for the archives.
- PRAC’s next meeting is September and there are openings on the commission if anyone is interested.

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property

- Reminded HARC the new director of Carlyle House is Becky Super. Becky has worked with NOVA Parks, most recently at the Lorton Workhouse. She also has experience in gardening, and has been active in caring for the Carlyle House garden in the past.

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)—(no updates at this time)

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association—(no update at this time)

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- The Society’s Annual meeting will be held August 25 at The Lyceum, featuring an expert on Civil War medicine. Doors open at 6 p.m., brief business meeting at 6:30 p.m. and lecture beginning around 7 p.m.
- Commission members are invited, as are staff and volunteers of OHA. The invitation will also be extended to staff and volunteers of Lee-Fendall and Carlyle House.

Linda Lovell on behalf of Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- Updates from AHRPC July 13, 2022 meeting:
  - In discussion with magazine/newspaper on a write-up of an interior Victorian home easement (photos have been taken). Danny noted that photographs were

taken in his home as they have an easement on their interior. He encouraged everyone to consider interior easements as the BAR only protects the outside.

- Another inspection was scheduled for July 15 to catch up with completing periodic inspections.
- Revisions to our easement inspection document continue with Al Cox's assistance. Will add a checklist for interior inspections. Also may add a glossary of technical terms with illustrations to facilitate easement inspections and compliance.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2 – (no updates at this time)

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF) – (no updates at this time)

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists

- The Office of the Arts has completed the jury process and a number of artists were removed. The new process requires jurying with people who share your studio instead of by individual artists, which is creating challenges around sharing a studio.
- Danny noted that Lisa was featured in the Neighbors of Alexandria magazine and it was a very interesting article. Martha Raymond shared a copy around.

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

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

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society

- June was the AHS annual meeting, providing an overview of the past year's lectures and financial statement. They voted five new members to the board.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- The commission has begun recruiting an African American representative for the commission. They currently have one nominee, but City Council is not back in session to approve until September.

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

### **New Business:**

Danny noted it is time to consider officers for the coming year. Steve Stuart volunteered to chair the nominating committee. Ivy Whitlatch and Tom Soule will also serve. Nominees are needed for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Steve will present a slate of candidates at the September meeting. Steve will confirm with Gretchen if the nominating committee must be advertised as a public meeting or not.

Danny has begun writing the annual report that is due to City Council. He welcomed assistance and plans on sharing with committee members for feedback prior to submitting.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Advocacy – Martha Harris and Martha Raymond, Co-Chairs

The subcommittee met July 12 and focused on the Samuel Madden housing development. Michael Hobbs and Gail Rothrock wrote a statement for the Board of Architectural Review, to be presented at the July 20 concept review meeting, and HARC reviewed and discussed the statement. City Staff recommends the BAR approve the height, mass, and scale of the proposal but have a fourth concept review to discuss the architectural character. The advocacy committee's statement endorses the proposal for a fourth concept review. Carol Black moved to adopt the advocacy committee's statement with the amendment to include something about the built out area on the eastern side being shorter than this proposal, which would create a drastic difference between the proposed and existing buildings. Steve Stuart seconded the motion. Martha Harris noted that a 4<sup>th</sup> concept review is important to continue when looking at properties in historic districts. Carol Black thanked the advocacy for their work as things move so quickly and encouraged HARC seek ways to be proactive. She noted there is a project in Arlandria that was just approved, and the developer has offered to speak with HARC. Sam Hoffman would also be a good speaker for the group to provide a deeper understanding of the process. Danny Smith will submit the written letter and paraphrase during his time on the floor, should an opportunity be offered, during the BAR meeting July 20. The motion carried.

Martha Raymond thanked Michael for doing most of the writing and Gail's assistance.

Martha also noted the Building Height amendment has been paused by City Council, so HARC will review at a later time.

August 2 will be the next meeting at La Madeline's at 10 a.m.

### **Old Business:**

New building height limits proposal (Danny Smith) – The department of Planning and Zoning is gathering information in response to the Planning Commission's questions.

Curb Cut at 322-324 South Lee (Danny Smith) – The applicant requested a deferral, which was approved at the Board of Zoning Appeals, so it will not come up again until September. The written statement has already been prepared, so HARC is ready when it happens.

Torpedo Factory Information Letter to the BAR Chair (Danny Smith) – Danny is still waiting for the meeting to be arranged.

### **Standing Committee Reports (continued):**

OHA Support – Steve Stuart (no updates to report)

Open Space – Martha Harris

- Continuing to work on this.

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group – Martha Raymond

- Torpedo Factory stakeholder's group is being created. Martha will represent HARC on this group.

### **Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey (excused absence)**

### **OHA Report: Michele Longo on behalf of Gretchen Bulova**

- Received \$500,000 grant in the FY23 state budget through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to support the preservation of Douglass Cemetery.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
  - Committees are planning the August 8<sup>th</sup> remembrance of Benjamin Thomas, a formal Soil Collection program on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and a community pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL October 6-10.
  - The details of the pilgrimage are being finalized and registration is planned to go live this week.
  - Have made connections with McCoy descendants
  - Identifying and researching “heroes” associated with the Thomas lynching
  - All are welcome to attend the Pilgrimage. All details and registration link will be on the ACRP website when it goes live.
  - Volunteers will be staffing outreach tables at different farmer's markets
  - Outreach to Civic Associations has started will continue this fall
- Michele recommended signing up for the “This Week in Alexandria” newsletter
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
  - Master Plan awarded to Glave Holmes and will begin July 18
  - Received \$100,000 donation from the Historic Alexandria Foundation to support a Historic Structures Report
- The Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke Street
  - Open regularly, with online tickets available
  - Terrific press coverage, ranging from radio to blogs to the Washington Post Metro section
  - Master Plan awarded to SmithGroup and will start soon
- Positions
  - Development Position is authorized for FY23 should be posted by the end of the month
  - Oral History Manager has been meeting with community organizations and will be starting community outreach programs
  - Research historian candidate has been selected to research and write markers for the Duke Street coordinator interpretation
- Continuing to scan and catalog four collections at the Alexandria Black History Museum, including the Moss Kendrix collection, with the support of an IMLS grant.

- A new exhibit at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, “Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community,” is planned to open October 27. The current exhibit, “Witnessing Worship” will close Labor Day weekend.
- Catherine added that the Friendship Firehouse Festival is Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The hose reel is back and on view. It’s also the last day to see the suction pump prior to conservation.
- Ivy alerted the group that Archaeology Commission is starting to take nominations for the Ben Brenman award that will be given in October.

**Standing committee: Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard**

HARC reviewed Page 2 through 3 of the hand out. Conceptually, the committee was trying to broaden the backgrounds of people on the organization and increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the organization. For example, no historic African American churches are represented even though historic churches are on this committee. To this end, Martha recommended that Section B should say Historic places of worship instead of Historic Churches in an effort to be inclusive.

Michael noted the first subcommittee meeting for this work was May 2021. At that point, there were a number of vacancies, some of which had been vacant for years. Since then, three new members have been appointed, two of which filled seats that have been vacant. Linda noted this work started because the City said it was planning to reorganize some commissions. HARC has moved ahead faster than the City has. Ultimately, HARC would need to request that City Council amend HARC’s ordinance to change the positions.

HARC discussed best approaches for proceeding. Martha Harris emphasized the importance of considering HARC’s mission and ensuring the list of members reflects that mission. For example, if ACVA was not providing a representative, what other options could bring a tourism point of view to the committee in place of ACVA? Ivy described three potential strategies to consider: HARC expands who is eligible within the current categories; HARC reduces the number of seats (it is a large group with constant vacancies); or HARC looks at new approaches to representation. Representatives from an organization potentially provide the weight of the organization behind actions taken by the individual and HARC, but also require the organization be willing to designate a participant.

For example, ACVA (now Visit Alexandria), has expressed they are not interested in appointing a member to HARC, but have offered to provide informational sessions for HARC. Should this position be kept open in case the relationship changes in the future? Broadened to include other tourism viewpoints? Or completely removed? Another example would be removing the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as a specific designee but increasing business representatives from one to two. This would maintain representation from the business community, but would remove requiring a participant be from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

HARC also discussed how Planning District Representatives could be different in practice. Ivy shared how AAC works, where the representative is active in meetings in their district, reports

back to the committee, and can at times carry the committee's backing to public meetings. Clarifying the purposed of these positions on HARC would be helpful. In

### **Next Meeting**

Ivy Whitlatch moved HARC not meet in August and Lisa Schumaier seconded. Carol Black expressed concern there is too much happening with the Samuel Madden redevelopment, but committee members will stay involved in this process in between meetings. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 20, location TBD.

**Public Comment:** no public comment

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Longo, OHA