

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, October 18, 2022

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Mark Farkus (conference line)  
Sean Ferguson  
Martha Harris  
Michael Hobbs  
Sam Hoffman  
Deborah Osborne  
Lisa Schumaier  
Danny Smith  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

**EXCUSED:**

Laura Lieberman  
Linda Lovell  
Richard Klingenmaier  
Martha Raymond  
Tom Soule  
Catherine Weinraub

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:** Gail Rothrock and Shawn Eyer (terms expired, seeking reappointment); Al Cox

**CITY STAFF:**

Eleanor Breen, OHA  
Bill Conkey, Planning

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2022:**

On a motion by Steve Stuart and seconded by Chris Brownlowe, HARC voted to approve the September 20, 2022 minutes.

**Chairs Update:**

**Commissioner Updates:**

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- A meeting is planned about the removal of historic elements from the church. The goal is for this to be reconsidered.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (no updates at this time)

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1 (no updates at this time)

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

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission (no updates at this time)

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property

- Speaking on behalf of the Carlyle House, Martha wants to remind commissioners that there are many events going on at the historic site this fall.

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- Last meeting of OTCA welcomed the new police chief Don Hayes. Meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will feature the new City Arborist.

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (no updates at this time)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association (excused absence)

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society (excused absence)

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (no updates at this time)

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF) (appointment pending)

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists (no updates at this time)

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (excused absence)

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

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (excused absence)

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- The SeeWorthy Archaeology Festival was postponed until May 2023 due to the weather.
- The AAC presented the Ben Brenman Awards at the City Council meeting to AECOM, EYA RTS Construction, LLC, and the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory.

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

**New Business:**

Danny encouraged members to consider becoming Chair of HARC.

**Old Business:**

New building height limits proposal (Danny Smith) – Chair reached out to Nancy Williams, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning Department, about the status of this project. She responded that this project is in discussion internally and there will be ample opportunity for community input. Commission members discussed public comment at the previous Planning Commission meeting and plans moving forward. The City Manager will be discussing the bonus density and height program at Agenda Alexandria on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Curb Cut at 322-324 South Lee (Danny Smith) – A written statement had already been submitted. Linda Lovell attended the last meeting to offer an oral statement. The Board of Zoning Appeals vote was 4 to 2 in favor of the applicant. Homeowners and the City of Alexandria are petitioning the court to have the decision reversed. The neighbors at 326 South Lee have also filed suit, but the city's suit takes precedence.

Samuel Madden development will have its next Application Community meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last meeting of this type before the project moves forward. The section 106

process is moving forward. Analyses about architecture and archaeology are ongoing to determining adverse effects.

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

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- Since the last meeting, a soil collection was held on market square and 165 Alexandrians and public high school students traveled to Montgomery, Alabama on a pilgrimage to remember the victims of racial terror in Alexandria and across the country.
- A documentary is being prepared to record the experience.

Advocacy – Martha Harris and Martha Raymond, Co-Chairs

- Next meeting is on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- Steve asks Commissioners to consider becoming an officer.

Open Space – Martha Harris

- The Open Space Committee is working on definitions of Open Space, which includes open space: (1) owned by a government body; and (2) private open space with a public easement that grants the general public the right to access the space. The primary ways to pursue new publicly accessible open space are: 1) purchase with Open Space funds; 2) Developer dedications to the City of Alexandria; (3) Public open space easements.
- In considering developer dedications, the question of above-ground open space has been discussed. The current text:
  - Additionally, while the zoning code defines public open space as being at grade, in instances where open space is limited or lower quality, above grade open space should be explored and encouraged. This Plan recommends further exploring adding above grade open space in high density areas.
- Martha proposed possible alternative text for review and comment:
  - The zoning code defines public open space as at grade. Where such open space is limited, developers may contribute to the Open Space Fund and/ or propose above grade open space to meet public benefit requirements of a project. However, all publicly accessible open space must be accessible to the public with clear signage indicating times and means of access. Above grade open space should not be used to justify higher density than is ordinarily permitted in the zone.
  - The issue of the wording was discussed. No vote was taken but members who spoke expressed support for the alternative text.

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group – Danny Smith reported for Martha Raymond

- The City forwarded our HARC letter of May 19, 2022, to the task force. Now the members have information about benefits of National Register listing, the building's character-defining features, and its history. Plan is to seek comments at the next task

force meeting. The City sent Task Force members a survey requesting suggestions of other art centers to consider as potential models.

- Tours of the Torpedo Factory building are being held for task force members. Martha R. went on the first tour. A second tour will be held on 10/25.
- The next task force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 6 to 8 pm. in the Preschool Room of the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe Street). The public is welcome. Agenda: Facility Improvements & Programming.
- Link to the task force website and info from the first task force meeting: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/arts/project/torpedo-factory-art-center-stakeholder-task-force>

HARC Composition Committee – Richard Klingenmaier (excused absence)

### **Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey**

The Board membership positions are now filled.

### **OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova**

- Staff are preparing for the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Site Visit in December. Three-day site visit will include touring all the museums and historic sites, visiting storage, observing educational programs, and meeting with elected and city officials.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
  - Soil Collection Ceremony was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, with more than 350 community members in attendance. Descendants of the McCoy family attended. Narratives for both Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas were read by Alexandria City High School Students. Community members filled jars from EJI to honor and memorialize Alexandria's two known lynching victims.
  - The Pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL took place October 6-10. 165 community members including elected officials, faith leaders, city leaders, community activists, ACPS students, and ACPS faculty attended. The soil jars were formally delivered to representatives of EJI in a ceremony that included the McCoy family members, Mayor's representative from Montgomery, Mayor Wilson, ACPS students, and the ACPS Steering Committee.
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
  - Glave-Holmes was awarded contracts for both the Historic Structures Report and the Master Plan.
  - Phase two exterior work is underway, with work now focused on the east façade.
- A new exhibit at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, "Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community," is planned to open October 27. The exhibit opening will take place Tuesday, November 1 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- Planning to hold the annual Cider Festival on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Lloyd House, first time in 3 years.
- Update on bottle digging activity occurring in Old Town.

Ivy Whitlach made a motion to write a letter Karl Moritz, director of Planning and Zoning, in support of and thanking them for the efforts to reverse the curb cut decision. Motion seconded by Michael Hobbs and all voted in favor.

**Public Comment:**

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 15, 2022, location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Breen, OHA