

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 15, 2022

PRESENT: (in person)

Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Donna DeBlasio
Sean Ferguson
Martha Harris
Michael Hobbs
Linda Lovell
Richard Klingenmaier
Gail Rothrock
Martha Raymond
Lisa Schumaier
Danny Smith
Tom Soule
Steve Stuart
Catherine Weinraub
Ivy Whitlatch

CONFERENCE LINE:

Deborah Osborne

EXCUSED:

Mark Farkus
Sam Hoffman
Laura Lieberman

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Shawn Eyer, reappointment not yet in place
Keith White

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Francesco De Salvatore, OHA
Bill Conkey, Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for October 18, 2022:

On a motion by Steve Stuart and seconded by Ivy Whitlach, HARC voted to approve the October 18, 2022 minutes.

Chairs Update:

- Circulated a draft letter to commission members written to Karl Moritz, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, extending HARC's gratitude for his staff's work on the curb cut at 322-323 South Lee Street. Edits are welcome.
- Received a call from Mayor Justin Wilson who asked if HARC would develop a "menu" of historical names related to the history of the City that could be used for future street name changes. This would not involve a role in the street name changing process or decision. He will send HARC a formal request and explanation of the project.

Commissioner Updates:

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Meeting on October 23 about the 1837 pew preservation
- Passed around this week's Gazette article featuring the wreath laying at National Cemetery to honor the USCT on November 6, 2022.
- Shared that she enjoyed a recent visit to the Fort Ward Museum

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

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

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

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

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

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property (no updates at this time)

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- Ivy Whitlach expressed thanks to OTCA for sharing information on the "bottle digger" issue

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association (no updates at this time)

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society (no updates at this time)

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- Shared recent work of the commission, researching more of the enforcement provisions of easements
- An upcoming issue of the Alexandria Times will share information on two recent properties with interior easements. One is the Lord Fairfax House.

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

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Toast of the Town fundraiser, Saturday November 19 (7 to 9 p.m.), \$100 per ticket

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

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

- Lectures are the 4th Wednesday of each month
- In 2023, celebrating 50th anniversary

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Budget letter to the City Manager, included information that the AAC will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024 and would like to partner with the City's 275th Anniversary.

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

New Business:

- Presentation on the vision for OHA's oral history center and program was made by Francesco De Salvatore, OHA's Oral History Manager
 - Members of the commission asked questions about the role of the program in Section 106 projects and offered suggestions for future oral history subjects (including original Torpedo Factory artists and members of the Alexandria Living Legends program)

- Elections (skip over for now)
- Annual Report (skip over for now)

Old Business:

- New building height limits proposal (Danny Smith) – Plenty of opportunity for public input.
- Curb Cut at 322-324 South Lee (Danny Smith) – Letter of thanks distributed, no legal action at this time.
- Samuel Madden development (Gail Rothrock) – Feb 7 and Feb 22, 2023 are two upcoming dates important to the project.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Gretchen Bulova for Mark Farkus

- Oral histories are in progress with members of the ACRP who participated in the October pilgrimage to Montgomery.
- Committees will resume work in the new year

Advocacy – Martha Harris and Martha Raymond, Co-Chairs

- Three items discussed: Torpedo Factory Task Force, Samuel Madden, and Mayor’s Commitment to affordable Housing
- Next meeting is December 6.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- Anticipate elections at the December 20 meeting
- Information about the December meeting “holiday party” will be emailed

Open Space – Martha Harris (no report at this time)

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group – Martha Raymond

- City Manager asked about ideas for programs and improvement. Discussion ranged from practical improvements to miniature golf on the roof. Full list will be in consultant’s notes which can be shared.
- Focused on strong connection with artists, importance of the archaeology museum in the building
- Next meeting December 7, focus on marketing. Intends to discuss commitment to National Register status for the building.

HARC Composition Committee – Michael Hobbs chaired this portion of the meeting

- Committee first established May 2021
- Circulated committee’s recent Summary/Worksheet of recommendations in advance of meeting

- Committee’s review proceeded from present composition of HARC, shown in the worksheet in the order listed in the ordinance. Committee suggests discussion of its recommendations be grouped according to similar categories and nature of proposed change.
- Recommendations: (Motions and votes taken were for planning purposes preparatory to final overall review and drafting an ordinance revision.)
 - Continuation of 3 City Commission and 7 History Organization seats: Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC), Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (AHRPC), Public Records Advisory Commission (PRAC), Alexandria Association, Alexandria Historical Society, Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Inc. or an equivalent organization, Carlyle House, George Washington Masonic Memorial, Historic Alexandria Foundation, Lee-Fendall House.
 - Motion by Danny Smith and seconded by Linda Lovell to approve this group of 10 organizations for membership in HARC. Motion passed.
 - Torpedo Factory Artists Association seat be continued under History Organization category.
 - Motion by Danny Smith and seconded by Linda Lovell to approve retaining the Torpedo Factory Artists Association seat under the history organization category.
 - Discussion included relevancy in separate “art affiliated groups” category versus history.
 - Motion passed.
 - Broaden eligibility for the Mortar and Pestle Society seat to include “friends” groups or similar volunteer support organizations for any Alexandria historic site or property.
 - Motion by Linda Lovell and seconded by Gail Rothrock to expand the eligibility for friends groups. Motion passed.
 - Broaden the eligibility for two seats now designated for Christ Church and the Old Presbyterian Meeting House to include other “houses of worship”;
 - Motion by Danny Smith and seconded by Gail Rothrock to expand the eligibility of representatives of houses of worship, congregations or sites which have played a significant role in the diverse cultural, social, and religious history of the city. Motion passed.
 - Increase the number of seats in the “historic site volunteer” category from one to two, including the present seat for an individual who serves as a volunteer at a historic property or attraction, and the redefined seat for a member of a friends or support group at a historic site, heretofore limited to the Mortar and Pestle Society.
 - Motion by Linda Lovell and second by Danny Smith to add a volunteer representative to HARC. Motion passed.
 - Discussion on other recommendations will continue at a future next meeting.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey

- BAR appeal, 610 Montgomery Street – unpainted masonry and applicant appealing, scheduled for December City Council hearing.
- BAR assigned members to committees to replace those members lost due to changes in the Board roster.
- BAR Design Guidelines committee scheduled to meet 11/29
- Scheduling board training for new members

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- Staff are planning for the arrival of the Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee, Scotland. They will be touring the city and participating in the Scottish Walk Weekend Events.
- Staff are preparing for the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Site Visit December 7 to 9. 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.
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
 - Glave-Holmes was awarded contracts for both the Historic Structures Report and the Master Plan.
 - The current restoration is focused on the east façade and stabilization of the Prince Street entrance porch.
- A new exhibit at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, “Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community,” opened on October 27.
- Community engagement will begin as part of the master planning process for Freedom House. The contract was awarded to Smith Group. A representative from HARC will have the opportunity to participate in the master planning.

Public Comment:

- Keith White introduced himself and enjoyed the lively discussion.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The next meeting will take place on December 20, 2022, at the Lloyd House

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, OHA