

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, January 17, 2022

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
Mark Farkus  
Sean Ferguson  
Martha Harris  
Richard Klingenmaier  
Laura Lieberman  
Linda Lovell  
Deborah Osborne  
Gail Rothrock  
Martha Raymond  
Lisa Schumaier  
Tom Soule  
Danny Smith  
Catherine Weinraub  
Ivy Whitlatch

**CONFERENCE LINE:**

**EXCUSED:**

Michael Hobbs  
Sam Hoffman  
Steve Stuart

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Bill Conkey, Planning

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:01 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes for December 19, 2022:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Carol Black and seconded by Chris Brownlowe. The December 19, 2022 minutes were approved.

### **Chairs Update:**

- Open Space Committee representative will be Sam Hoffman, starting in February.

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Minister retiring this month and an interim will be in place.
- Elks Lodge – fire marshal visited, working on panic bars for exterior doors to comply with code.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Currently have a sculpture show, pausing programming during the show.
- February 11<sup>th</sup>, reinstating "Salon at the Statehouse" at the former VA Statehouse at 415 Prince Street; a rare opportunity to visit this privately owned historic property. Tickets available at [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

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

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- At the Memorial, the centennial of the cornerstone laying is planned. Several thousand Masons will be participating from around the country.
- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – Annual George Washington Parade will feature 1,500 Masons, representing a variety of lodges from around the country. The parade route will terminate at the Memorial.
- The Grand Lodge of Virginia will re-enact the cornerstone laying at 3:30 p.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>. [note change to 3:30]
- Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1 p.m. free symposium on architecture of the Memorial.

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

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Meeting next week, have one commission seat open at this time.

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Historic Property

- Carlyle House is hosting a Burns Night on Saturday, January 21 at Gadsby's Tavern Museum
- Carlyle House also interpreting Ann Carlyle on January 21, 10 to 4 p.m.

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) (excused absence)

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- Voted to award the Lee Fendall House \$40,000 toward the Historic Structures Report.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Lee-Fendall House is closed the month of January for cleaning.
- A number of exciting public programs are scheduled.
- Historic Structures Report is in progress.

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- Next meeting will take place in March.

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- Continue with easement inspections.
- Article in the Alexandria Times about interior easements.
- Chair working to understand the City's tax incentive program in order to promote easements. City process allows subsequent owner tax incentives, rather than the Federal one-time deduction.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Planning Commission deferred decision to increase height limits last June.
- Arlington has a similar project, Arlingtonians for Zoning Transparency (AFOOT.org).
- There are impacts on tree cover and open space.

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

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists

- TFAC Stakeholder meeting planned for this week.

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- February is the BIG month for George Washington events and celebrations
- Walking tours every Sunday at 2 p.m., starting at Christ Church

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

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3 (excused absence)

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society

- Molly Kerr, local historian, will lecture on her research conducted for Historic Alexandria on the Colchester ledgers and early evidence of chocolate consumption in Alexandria. March 22 at 7 p.m. at The Lyceum.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Bottle digger issue, individual makes art/jewelry out of what is excavated
- February 4<sup>th</sup>, the southern trail of the African American Heritage Trail will be launched at The Lyceum. 10 to 2 p.m.

### **New Business:**

- Annual Report, nearing completion (Danny Smith)
- Street Name Request from Mayor Wilson (Shawn Eyer)
  - HARC, in collaboration with OHA staff, develop a list of potential street names
  - Form an ad hoc committee to work on a list of potential names
  - Committee volunteers: Mark Farkus, Linda Lovell, Chris Brownlowe, Thomas Soule, Shawn Eyer

### **Old Business:**

- New building height limits proposal (Danny Smith)
  - No additional update
- Samuel Madden development (Gail Rothrock)
  - Feb 7 and 21, Planning Commission and Council meetings on the project
  - Staff report will be out two weeks prior
- Curb cut on South Lee Street (Danny Smith)
  - Additional testimony requested in the appeal, an effort to reverse the decision

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Gretchen Bulova for Mark Farkus

- Essay contest with EJI opened January 15<sup>th</sup> for Alexandria City High School students, more information can be found on [Alexandriava.gov/historic](http://Alexandriava.gov/historic)
- Steering Committee met to set the calendar for the next year
- First in-person public meeting since the pandemic is planned for March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Nannie J. Lee Center

Advocacy – Martha Harris and Martha Raymond, Co-Chairs

- Met January 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss Samuel Madden development and write the HARC requested letter to the City Manager regarding the importance of a National Register Nomination for the Torpedo Factory

- Motion by Carol Black to send the letter drafted by the Advocacy Committee to the City Manager and seconded by Donna DeBlasio, once the Chair formats the letter and puts in his own “voice.” Motion passed.
- Member of the public Bill Dickinson attended to discuss the Bank of Alexandria’s restoration
- Next meeting is February 7

OHA Support – Steve Stuart (excused absence)

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group – Martha Raymond

- Next meeting January 18, 2023 at City Hall, with planned overflow space.
- The topic is governance.

Open Space – Martha Harris

- Sam Hoffman has agreed to be the new HARC representative to the Open Space Committee.

HARC Composition Committee – Michael Hobbs (excused absence)

- Discussion to continue next month.

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

- The columbarium at the St. Mary’s Cemetery was recently approved by the BAR. This application was previously approved but that approval expired. In the new application the design was slightly modified.
- The BAR recently accepted a deferral for the after-the-fact approval of HVAC piping installed at the exterior of the structure. Staff is currently working through potential options with the applicant.
- The BAR Design Guideline Committee will be holding a meeting in February. This is part of a regular series of meetings meant to update the current guidelines.

**OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova**

- Mary Bramley, our new Development Officer, started January 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope to introduce her to you at a future meeting.
- Need a HARC representative to the Master Planning process for 1315 Duke Street, participation involves one three-hour workshop in March. (Donna DeBlasio volunteered to be the representative)
- Our museums are on winter hours now, so shorter days. Please check the website for the exact details. Remember that City of Alexandria residents receive complimentary admission for the regular tours.
- Planning to reopen the Black History Museum in February with a new exhibition, *Black Lives Remembered*.
- WW1 interpretive marker installed by monument at the train station.
- This spring, planning to update the timeline inside the Torpedo Factory Arcade

- Launch of the southern route of the Waterfront African American history trail will be held at The Lyceum on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House exterior renovation is nearing completion. Should probably be finished before our next HARC meeting! Interior ceiling plaster repairs are scheduled for early February.
- George Washington Parade will be held on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – the route is new this year to partner with the Masonic Memorial’s 100 Commemoration of the corner stone laying.
- Consultants have studied the water drainage issue at Douglass Cemetery and have offered potential solutions. Staff are working with a company to determine the stability of a pipe that spans the cemetery, originally installed around 1904.
- Planning Black History Month, George Washington Month, as well as Women’s History Month activities.

**Public Comment:** no members of the public present

- The Chair recognized the leadership of Danny Smith and Linda Lovell.
- The Chair also expressed thanks to Martha Harris for her 10 years of service on HARC. Martha was presented with flowers and a plaque.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 21, 2023, at the Lloyd House

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA