

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 21, 2022

PRESENT: (in person)

Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Donna DeBlasio
Shawn Eyer
Sean Ferguson
Michael Hobbs
Sam Hoffman
Laura Lieberman
Linda Lovell
Deborah Osborne
Gail Rothrock
Martha Raymond
Lisa Schumaier
Tom Soule
Danny Smith
Steve Stuart
Catherine Weinraub
Ivy Whitlatch

CONFERENCE LINE:

EXCUSED:

Mark Farkus

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for January 17, 2023 and February 21, 2023:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Lovell and seconded by Gail Rothrock. The January 17 and February 21, 2023, minutes were approved.

Chairs Update:

- The Chair thanked Commissioners for their support of the Masonic Memorial Cornerstone Laying Ceremony and George Washington Parade. Video of all the commemoration events is available on the Memorials website.
- Housing for All virtual listening session on Thursday, March 23rd (6 to 8 p.m.). The link will be distributed.

Commissioner Updates:

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Transitional minister in place, to replace retiring minister Rev. Rocky Laha
- Enrolling the Elks Lodge in Spring2Action

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- New exhibition opening soon

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

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

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Two vacancies

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- Bill Conkey gave a presentation at the February meeting, describing the BAR process (approvals, permits, maintenance items, etc)
- 1000 properties in the Parker Gray District, 4000 properties in the Old and Historic District
- Emphasis on preserving original fabric (anything pre-1932)
- April 5 will be the hearing about the 322/324 Lee Street Curb Cut issue

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

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Civil War walking tour, special interior tour now available
- Easter Egg Hunt, April 1 and 8

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- 90th anniversary in 2025, beginning to plan
- Opened as a museum in 1938

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- April 19 Easement Workshop at 7 p.m. at The Lyceum

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Drawing visibility to the Housing for All meetings in District 2
- Commended Shawn Eyers for the wonderful celebration at the Masonic Memorial

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

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

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Sunday, April 2 – special walking tour of Alexandria with George Washington, Brian Hilton

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

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- March 18, shooting in District 3

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society

- 2024 will be the 50th anniversary of AHS
- March 22 – Lecture by Mollie Kerr, Shopping Stories: Revealing Lives through the Ledgers
- April 26– Annual awards program, with guest speaker Rob Nieweg with the National Trust
- May 24 – Lecture by Susan Dilles, Jewish Community of Northern Virginia
- June 28 – Lecture by Eleanor Breen, Waterfront Archaeological Update

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Creating a committee to celebrate 50th anniversary, first archaeological commission in the country

- Discussion about the new temporary art installation at Waterfront Park and the lack of interpretation about Alexandria's own ship excavations
- Friends of Alexandria Archaeology joint meeting with AAC in April
- Special thanks to Linda Lovell for publicly acknowledging the terrific work of Emma Richardson to City Council members

New Business: Nothing at this time

Old Business:

- Annual Report (Danny Smith)
 - Draft is being circulated to officers for comment and will be sent to the full commission
- Housing for All public engagement
 - Virtual meeting
 - Includes bonus heights (there was a pause in this initiative, but reactivating)
 - March 30th planning commission meeting
- Samuel Madden development (Gail Rothrock)
 - Council approved project

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- Bus trip to Charlottesville to hear Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice initiative, speak on Tuesday, March 28th. Bus departs Alexandria at 3 p.m. Sign up online, \$50 include roundtrip bus transportation, boxed meal, and event ticket.
- EJI essay contest winners will be presented at a public meeting in City Council Chambers on May 20th at 1 p.m.

Advocacy –Martha Raymond

- Alexandria's Zoning for Housing initiative
 - Public meeting March 20-21, launched initiative. Additional virtual meetings and engagement sessions will be offered.
 - Several members of HARC attended.
 - Encouraged everyone to visit the Housing for All web page
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning-and-zoning/zoning-for-housinghousing-for-all>

Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Group – Martha Raymond

- Follow up in progress with City Manager
- Archaeology exploring using additional space across the hall from the museum for school programs

OHA Support – Steve Stuart (no updates at this time)

Open Space – Sam Hoffman

- Next meeting March 28

Ad-Hoc HARC Composition Committee – Michael Hobbs (presenting for the Committee to succeed Richard Kligenmaier, who did not apply for reappointment to HARC in January)

- Brief review of the goals and progress made to date
- Review of the number of planning district representatives
 - Motion by Tom Soule to reject the Committee proposal to reduce the number of planning district representatives, seconded by Martha Raymond. Discussion about the role and need for these representatives. Motion passes.
- Review of civic association representatives
 - Motion by Danny Smith to adopt the Committee proposal to reduce the representatives from 2 to 1 and seconded by Tom Soule. Discussion about planning district and civic association representatives sharing 7 at-large positions. Motion fails.
- Recommendation by Sam Hoffman to increase the at-large positions to 8 representatives. This will be discussed next month.

Ad-Hoc Proposed Street Naming Committee – Linda Lovell and Mark Farkas, Co-Chairs

- Committee had several members of the public in attendance who provided comment as well as street name suggestions.
- Revisited the purpose of the ad-hoc committee, timeline, and research needed.
- Committee name is confusing and will be changed to Ad-Hoc HARC Street Name Research Committee.
- Next meeting April 14 at noon at the Lloyd House.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Report submitted by Bill Conkey

- The BAR previously approved the careful de-construction and reassembly of the existing building at 10 Duke Street at a higher elevation and with some modifications. The applicant has satisfied many of the approval requirements related to the documentation of the existing building and is set to begin the de-construction process. As recently noted in the local media, an agreement has been reached with a local restaurateur to develop a new tavern in the space once the construction has been completed.
- The Design Guidelines Committee for the BAR held another working session on March 21, 2023 to continue the work in updating the Design Guidelines. The group will continue to meet regularly with the goal of bringing updated chapters to the full Board for adoption. The committee is meeting on a monthly basis with a goal of completing the guideline update as quickly as possible.
- A new BAR member was appointed by City Council at their recent public meeting. Nastaran Zandian is a resident of the Parker Gray District and is an architect with Cooper Cary. She will be starting with the Board in April.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- Presentation next month by Ana Vicinanza (Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities), Public Open Space Text Amendment Change at the April 18 meeting.
- In process of recruiting for OHA Deputy Director, Historic Preservation Specialist, and Volunteer Coordinator. All positions are full-time with benefits.
- Spring2Action will be held April 26th and we are fundraising for the oral history program. We will have a reception at Lloyd House for the evening power hour, 6 to 8 p.m. Please join us! A donation in any amount is your entry.
- Master Plan for Freedom House, two public engagement sessions were held. Approximately 50 community members attended. Donna DeBlasio is representing HARC.

Public Comment:

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 18, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, OHA