

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

---

**PRESENT: (in person)**

Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
Mark Farkus  
Sean Ferguson  
Michael Hobbs  
Laura Lieberman  
Linda Lovell  
Deborah Osborne  
Gail Rothrock  
Martha Raymond  
Danny Smith  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

**CONFERENCE LINE:**

**EXCUSED:**

Sam Hoffman  
Deborah Osborne  
Lisa Schumaier  
Tom Soule  
Catherine Weinraub

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Ana Vicinanza and Jose Ayala, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:00p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes for March 21, 2023:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Lovell and seconded by Danny Smith. Edits were provided by Ivy Whitlach and Michael Hobbs. The March 21, 2023, minutes were approved.

### **Presentation: Public Open Space Text Amendment Change** by Ana Vicinanza and Jose Ayala, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

- Summary of amendments
- Goal is to reduce the number of Special Use Permits, to save time and resources
- Timeline
  - March/April – Public Engagement (to more than 10 organizations)
  - May – Finalize edits to the amendment
  - June – Take to the Planning Commission and City Council
- Project page: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/public-open-space-zone-text-amendment>
- Questions from HARC members
  - Are community gardens considered open space?
  - Does the plan allow for pickle ball courts?
  - #4, Does the height start at the ground or at the top of the structure?

### **Chairs Update:**

- Reminded everyone of the AHRPC presentation on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at The Lyceum about Easements.

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Elks Lodge participating in Spring2Action

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Basement wall restoration planned for this Fall

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

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Next task, post February GW celebration, is to open fully to the public. Currently open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only.

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

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

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

Sam Hoffman – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Specialty tours offered this month, from John L. Lewis and the labor movement to the latest Civil War research

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

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (excused absence)

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Several communities in Planning District 2 are organizing to understand the *Zoning for Housing/Housing for All* information

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Hearing on 322/324 S. Lee was on April 5<sup>th</sup>, judge to make a decision early May

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists (Excused Absence)

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Thanked Shawn Eyer for promoting the Easement Seminar being offered by AHRPC.

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (excused absence)

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

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (provided by Linda Lovell)

- April 26– Annual awards program, with guest speaker Rob Nieweg with the National Trust. Michael T. Miller award will be given to Al Cox and Michael Johnson. Special Achievement award will be given to Brenda Mitchell-Powell. Four student awards will be presented as well.
- 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 (no updates at this time)

### **New Business:**

- HARC Retreat – The Chair gauged interest for a planning meeting. The meeting would take place on a Saturday and it is acknowledged upfront that not all commissioners would be able to attend.

### **Old Business:**

- Annual Report (Danny Smith) – Members offered thanks for the tremendous work
- Housing for All public engagement – Information was covered during Martha Raymond's commissioner update
- Samuel Madden development (Gail Rothrock) - No update at this time

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- Saturday, April 22 lecture at 11 a.m. on Restorative or Transformational Justice at the Charles Houston Recreation Center
- Sunday, April 23 Remembrance event at 2 p.m. beginning on Market Square and concluding with a wreath laying
- City Hall and the lynching location (as well as the Masonic Memorial) will be illuminated for the remembrance weekend
- EJI essay contest winners will be presented at a public meeting in City Council Chambers on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Advocacy –Martha Raymond

- Torpedo Factory Task Force planning summary is in process
- Waiting for follow up from City Manager about forwarding the TFAC National Register Nomination to the State

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

Open Space – Sam Hoffman (Excused Absence)

Freedom House Master Plan – Donna DeBlasio

- Second round of public engagement sessions begin April 24<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Lloyd House.
- A Third round of sessions is schedule for June.

Ad-Hoc HARC Composition Committee – Michael Hobbs

- Brief review of progress through March 21 meeting and remaining issues for consideration
- Consideration of the total number of At-large Members to be specified in the ordinance
  - Motion by Sean Ferguson to specify eight At-large members, including the six Planning District representatives and the two Civic Association representatives agreed to at the March 21 meeting; motion seconded. Observation that motion would follow

- Committee’s recommendation “that the number of representatives from each category (Civic Association representatives, Planning District representatives) [should be] specific, precise, and not overlapping.” Motion passes.
- Consideration of addition of a new seat for “a member whose individual qualifications, or membership in a relevant community organization, reflect the importance of the city’s diverse social, ethnic, and cultural heritage, as well as its sites and structures, among Alexandria’s historic resources.” Michael Hobbs suggested that the seat should be captioned as a “Community Representative” seat, rather than as a “Community Organization” seat as in the Committee Report, since individuals as well as representatives of organizations would be eligible for appointment to the seat.
    - Motion by Danny Smith to adopt Committee recommendation, with suggested modification, to add a seat for a “Community Representative”; motion seconded. Discussion of definition, eligibility, and relationship to Purvi Irwin’s January 2021 presentation to HARC that the “historic resources” the Commission seeks to protect and preserve should not be limited to sites, structures and organizations dating back perhaps to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but should reflect also the importance of the city’s diverse social, ethnic, and cultural heritage as an essential part of Alexandria’s historic resources. Motion passes.
  - Consideration of transition provision.
    - Motion by Sean Ferguson to adopt the Committee recommendation that transition from the present to the proposed composition of HARC be accomplished by attrition: i.e., that no member’s service on the Commission would be discontinued before the conclusion of the term to which they have previously been appointed by Council and are presently serving.; motion seconded. Michael Hobbs suggested that such a transition provision was now of less scope than expected when the Committee first proposed it, because many fewer seats with incumbents presently serving were now proposed to be eliminated or reconstituted. Discussion about complexity of transition provisions in general, possible application of proposed transition rule to specific cases on HARC, and uncertainty about how such a provision might be implemented in practice if adopted by City Council. Motion passes.
  - Vice Chairman Ferguson noted that HARC had now adopted tentative conclusions on all elements of the Ad-Hoc Composition Committee’s report and recommendations and inquired as to the appropriate process to conclude the Commission’s review. Danny Smith advised that it had been the sense of the Committee that, once the Commission had acted on all of the recommendations individually, a composite of those actions should be compiled for HARC’s final review and adoption. Upon inquiry from Chairman Eyer, Michael Hobbs confirmed that such a composite recommendation could be prepared for HARC’s consideration at its next meeting.

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

- April meeting included two members of the public as well as Dana Wedeles with the City Manager’s Office.
- Ms. Wedeles shared information on the process – a list to be submitted by HARC to City Council in August
- Committee would like HARC to review and vote on names at each meeting, in small blocks

- The first list includes: Ona Judge, George Lewis Seaton, Patsy Ticer, Lillie Finklea, Jean Keith, Samuel W. Tucker, George W. Ford
- The Committee Motion to accept the names was seconded by Sean Ferguson. The motion passed.
- Next meeting May 5 at noon at the Lloyd House.

### **Board of Architectural Review Update: Report submitted by Bill Conkey**

- The Mansley

The BAR will be hearing the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Mansley multi-family residential project at 615-621 King Street. This project went through the concept review process where it was endorsed by the Board. Now that the DSUP has been approved by City Council they are ready to move forward with the project. The Board will hear the case at the BAR this Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

- 115 King Street

The Board will hear an application from the owner of 115 King Street for the expansion of the Landini Brothers dining space. The proposed work will include modifications to the alley elevation.

- 114 North Payne Street

We have received an appeal of the BAR approval of the proposed work at 114 North Payne Street. The appeal will be heard by City Council at their May 13, 2023 public hearing.

- 1020 Duke Street

The Board of Zoning Appeals will hear an appeal of a violation that was issued for the installation of vinyl windows at the 100-Year-Old Building listed property at 1020 Duke Street at their May 8, 2023 hearing. The owner is appealing the violation issued by Historic Preservation Staff.

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

- Spring2Action will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> and we are fundraising for the oral history program. We will have a reception at Lloyd House for the evening power hour, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Please join us! A donation in any amount is your entry.
- May is Historic Preservation Month! Al Cox will offer a lecture on May 9<sup>th</sup> at The Lyceum on the exterior restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. A specialty tour called "Peeling Back the Layers" will be offered at Gadsby's each Saturday morning in May, 9:30-10:30 a.m. that will explore the building's architecture, including going into spaces not typically open to the public.
- Continue to receive great press on Freedom House and are hosting special groups on a regular basis. Staff recently visited with Professor Richard Bell who wrote Stolen, a publication that references Franklin and Armfield and illuminates the reverse Underground Railroad.
- AAM accreditation celebration will be May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Lyceum. An invitation will be emailed!

**Public Comment:**

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 16, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA