

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, May 16, 2022

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Bailee Barfield  
Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
Sean Ferguson  
Michael Hobbs  
Sam Hoffman  
Deborah Osborne  
Gail Rothrock  
Lisa Schumaier  
Tom Soule  
Danny Smith  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

**CONFERENCE LINE:**

**EXCUSED:**

Mark Farkus  
Laura Lieberman  
Linda Lovell  
Martha Raymond  
Catherine Weinraub

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:** Greg Paspatas, Russell Simonaro

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Bill Conkey, Historic Preservation, Planning

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

### **Approval of Minutes for April 18, 2023:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Soule and seconded by Gail Rothrock. The April 28, 2023, minutes were approved.

### **Chairs Update:**

- Welcome to Bailee Barfield, representing historic site volunteers

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Bailee Barfield – Volunteer

- Shared some background information on herself and that she is involved with the Mortar & Pestle Board.

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- The church is in the process of moving early pews from the sanctuary.
- Elks Lodge participated in Spring2Action, raising funds for a metal fire door.
- Juneteenth program will be held at Douglass Cemetery.
- Attended a tour of the HILCO development. A virtual tour will be offered May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Monday, May 22 meeting on Housing for All issues.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Participated in Spring2Action.
- Spring arts programming is on-going.

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

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Working to open the Memorial on a regular schedule but having staffing and hiring issues.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Reported that Gretchen Bulova visited the May 15, 2023, PRAC meeting to discuss a variety of commission issues and plans.
- Discussed making specific collections of records more accessible to the public, to reduce the number of FOIA requests.

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

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

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society (excused absence)

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- Easement Seminar held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at The Lyceum.
- 50 people attended and several showed interest in easements on their homes.
- There are two vacant commission seats at this time.
- Commissioners are conducting 12 easement inspections this spring, using a newly devised and detailed checklist.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- The Town of Potomac Historic District was named to Preservation Virginia's 2023 Most Endangered Historic Places List <https://preservationvirginia.org/our-work/most-endangered-historic-places/>.
- The Del Ray Citizens Association is holding a press conference at 6 p.m. on May 18th at the Town of Potomac Hall (Old Fire Station).
- The HAF Annual Meeting and Garden Party will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Home of Latane Montague. Grants to local museums will be awarded at that time.

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists

- Final Torpedo Factory Task Force Report was posted on the project website. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/arts/project/torpedo-factory-art-center-stakeholder-task-force>

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Shared that Al Cox's presentation on the restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House was outstanding and a recording will be available on OHA's website.
- He also shared that he participated in the AHRPC easement seminar and that it was very information and well done. He learned more the tax reduction on his home as a result of the presentation from the City's Real Estate Office.

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

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- Reported that he stopped by Lebanon Union Cemetery after learning about it at the April meeting.

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (Excused Absence)

- 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

- Held a joint meeting with FOAA in April at the Archives and Records Center.
- FOAA now has 40 members and plan to resume their “After Dark” series as well as a trivia program.
- FOAA has established an endowment thanks to a bequest from former volunteer Kathy Kelly.
- Michael Johnson, an AAC commissioner, won one of this year’s Alexandria Historical Society awards.
- Tatiana Niculescu, Archaeologist, has created a comprehensive report on the “Hotel Indigo” ship excavated in 2015.
- Starting a monthly standing committee to plan for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AAC in 2025.

**New Business:**

- Introduced by Ivy Whitlatch: Suggested that HARC, AAC, and PRAC work together to advocate to the City Manager on behalf of OHA to fund a new collections off-site storage facility.
  - Motion made by Tom Soule for the HARC, AAC, and PRAC commission chairs to draft a letter for consideration to send to the City Manager, seconded by Carol Black. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- HARC Retreat, potential dates and venue discussion
  - Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Potential venues: Masonic Memorial, Alex Renew, Christ Church

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Ad-Hoc HARC Composition Committee – Michael Hobbs

- Commission completed review of Committee’s recommendations at the April 18, 2023 meeting.
- Action needed tonight:
  - Review tentative conclusions from prior meetings.
  - Consider the draft ordinance for referral to City Council.

- A summary chart of HARC's present composition and Commission's tentative conclusions was circulated to commissioners in advance of the meeting.
- Motion by Tom Soule to confirm the Commission's tentative conclusions as HARC's action on its proposed composition, seconded by Sean Ferguson. Motion passed.
- Michael Hobbs recommended forwarding a draft ordinance along with the Commission's report to the City Clerk's office for consideration by City Council.
- Motion by Danny Smith to accept and endorse the draft ordinance as reflective of HARC's intent to adjust the composition of the commission, seconded by Gail Rothrock. Motion passed.

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus (excused absence), Gretchen Bulova reported

- The EJI essay contest winners will be announced at a public meeting in City Council Chambers on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. A representative from EJI will be attending.

Advocacy –Martha Raymond (excused absence), Donna DeBlasio reported

- In her absence, Martha asked that the Torpedo Factory Task Force Final Report be shared with everyone. Report can be found at: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/arts/project/torpedo-factory-art-center-stakeholder-task-force>
- The recent committee meeting discussed the Heritage Project, the TFAC historic building nomination request to the City Manager, and working with the City's new Office of Environmental Action on sustainability issues related to historic preservation.

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

Open Space – Sam Hoffman

- Attended May 1 Open Space meeting, which was the final meeting for that committee.
- Zoning ordinance includes open space requirements. The Open Space Steering Committee was created to proactively re-examine the ordinance to preserve open space.
- Ordinance now includes information on preserving and protecting the City's historic resources and the "character of open space."
- New alternatives include donations to an open space fund, in lieu of actual open space.
- June 6, recommendations going to Planning Commission.
- Community engagement on the Open Space Plan is taking place.

Freedom House Master Plan – Donna DeBlasio

- Final round of stakeholder engagement meetings will be held June 5 and 6 at the Lloyd House.

Ad-Hoc Proposed Street Naming Committee – Linda Lovell and Mark Farkas, Co-Chairs (excused absences), Tom Soule reported

- Names for consideration to date include Benjamin Banneker, Kerry Donley, Dr. Henry Ladrey, Dr. Albert Johnson, Harriet Jacobs, Sherry Sanabria, Mary Edmonson, Emily

Edmonson, Harry Spengler, George Lockhart, Richard Gray, Sarah Gray, John Parker, Rabbi Emmet Allen Frank, Clifford Durr, Virginia Durr, Arthur Nelson, Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Nansemond, Pamunkey, and James Lewis.

- A motion to approve the list of names provided by the sub-committee was made by Michael Hobbs, seconded by Deborah Osborne. Motion passed.

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

- 10 Duke Street – The de-construction of the existing building is underway. They have removed the roof and most of the exterior walls at the second floor. I visited the site today and the builder is doing a good job of carefully protecting the existing material so that it can be reassembled at a higher elevation. They now have a tenant for the building and are moving forward with building it per the original BAR approval.
- 114 North Payne Street – City Council upheld the decision of the BAR to allow modifications to the property at 114 North Payne Street. Modifications include changes to the front elevation, a second-floor rear addition, and additional paving in the front yard to accommodate additional parking.
- 301 North Fairfax Street – The Board will hear a request for a Permit to Demolish and a Concept Review for the replacement of the existing office building at the northeast corner of North Fairfax and Queen Street with a new multi-family residential building.

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

- Hot off the press news – Liz Williams has been selected as OHA's Deputy Director. She has been with Gadsby's Tavern Museum for 18 years, the last 7 as Director.
- Spring2Action, held April 26<sup>th</sup>, was very successful and raised \$17,000 for Historic Alexandria. Thanks to everyone who donated and attended our fundraising happy hour event.
- May is Historic Preservation Month! Al Cox gave a terrific lecture on May 9<sup>th</sup> at The Lyceum on the exterior restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. The lecture was recorded and will be posted on the MDF web page. Specialty tours called "Peeling Back the Layers" continue to 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.
- We will cap Historic Preservation Month off with an AAM accreditation celebration on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Lyceum. Please join us!
- Site updates:
  - Historic Structures assessment by Glave Holmes will begin next week at the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House.
  - Archives and Records Center will be undergoing an extensive renovation. The contract has been awarded and the work will begin shortly. This does involve relocating collections.
  - Contract to restore the Fort Ward Ceremonial Gate has been awarded to Oak Grove Restoration and the work will begin early summer.

- Alexandria Archaeology has installed new exhibit panels on their Lee Street excavations, with funding support from HAF.
- Conservation of the historic pumper at Friendship Firehouse is going well and we hope to see the historic fire engine return in August.
- Unfortunately, the heavy rains last week caused a lot of basement water damage at the Black History Museum. The affected area is being remediated.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will take place on June 20, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA