

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 20, 2022

PRESENT: (in person)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Shawn Eyer

Sean Ferguson

Laura Lieberman

Linda Lovell

Deborah Osborne

Martha Raymond

Gail Rothrock

Tom Schultz

Danny Smith

Catherine Weinraub

Ivy Whitlatch

CONFERENCE LINE:

Mark Farkus

EXCUSED:

Bailee Barfield

Lisa Schumaier

Tom Soule

Roberta Stevens

ABSENT:

Steve Stuart

GUESTS:

Rod Kruckro

Greg Paspatas

CITY STAFF:

Eleanor Breen, OHA

Bill Conkey, Historic Preservation, Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:05p.m.

Approval of Minutes for May 16, 2023:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Christopher Brownlowe and seconded by Gail Rothrock. The May 16, 2023, minutes were approved.

Chairs Update:

- Welcome to Tom Schultz, representing Civic Associations

Presentation: Rod Kuckro, Town of Potomac Historic District

- Presentation focused on the inclusion of the Town of Potomac on Preservation Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places List of 2023.
- A news conference was held on May 18th at the Town of Potomac town hall and remarks were presented by Preservation Virginia and shared with HARC.
- Kuckro asked HARC to contact City Council regarding the issue.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteer (not present)

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Zoning for Housing meeting was held and members of HARC attended. Urged that HARC comment on height issue.
- Attended the Douglass Cemetery Juneteenth Commemoration and urged HARC to follow the restoration of the sacred site.
- Raised the issue of code enforcement capacity.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Summer programming continues.

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

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Installed a new bench on the Memorial's property to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and now the area is called the MLK Reflection Grove.

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

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

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Trivia night series has started in partnership with Carlyle.
- Civil War Hospital Tour is coming up as is story time at the museum.

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- Annual meeting is at the end of July and everyone is invited. New board members will be selected. There will be a presentation by Callie Stapp about the history of vaccines.

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

- More inspections related to easements are occurring and a new inspection checklist has been created.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- June 21st Rosemont Citizens Association will discuss changes to zoning.

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- The HAF Annual Meeting and Garden Party held June 11th at the home of Latane Montague. Grants awarded to the Office of Historic Alexandria Oral History, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria for students studying historic preservation, and the American Horticultural Society for a brick walkway. Recipients of preservation awards included Holden & Company Insurance for the restoration of 115 N. Fairfax Street, Mark and Jennifer Strickland for the restoration of 305 S. St. Asaph, and the Tall Ship Providence Foundation for preserving Alexandria's maritime history.

Tom Schultz – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) (not present)

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists (not present)

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Reported on behalf of Gadsby's that The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is doing an excellent and successful job at fundraising.

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (not present)

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association (not present)

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3 (not present)

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society

- June 28 – Lecture by Eleanor Breen, Waterfront Archaeological Update; new board members will be nominated and voted in

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Volunteer party was a success with over 100 people in attendance. Wonderful volunteers received awards and a new award was created in honor of retired Councilwoman Redella “Del” Pepper.
- Tomorrow evening, the AAC Meeting will be a walk about at Douglass Cemetery for a tour and discussion.

New Business:

- Recognizing the work of former HARC Members

Old Business:

- HARC Retreat, potential dates and venue discussion
 - Saturday, August 5th beginning at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Venue: Masonic Memorial
 - Agenda to include: recognition of former HARC members, one guest speaker, identifying strategic priorities and action items
- Letter to City Council requesting update to HARC composition, no update
- Letter from HARC, AAC, and PRAC to the City Manager on behalf of OHA to fund a new collections off-site storage facility. Aim to get it submitted next month.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- August 8th at 6 p.m., marker dedication, remembrance walk, and wreath laying ceremony planned to honor the lost life of Benjamin Thomas.
- Documentary firm has been hired to create a film.

Advocacy –Martha Raymond

- Next meeting will be July 11th at 10 a.m. at La Madeline.
- An update was given on the Torpedo Factory Arts Center. City Manager Jim Parajon gave a presentation about the TFAC Stakeholder Task Force engagement summary to City Council during his oral report this week, video at this link [here](#). The stakeholder engagement summary is on the City project webpage [here](#).
- The TFAC Stakeholder Task Force will be a topic of discussion for the Advocacy Committee.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart (not present)

Freedom House Master Plan – Donna DeBlasio

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

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

- City staff and members of the public came to the last meeting.
- A new round of names was submitted to HARC for consideration. No objections were made. Carol Black made a motion to accept the names as submitted and Deborah Osborne seconded.
- Next meeting will be July 14th at the Lloyd House at noon.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Report submitted by Bill Conkey

- Design Guidelines Committee: Last week we held a four-hour meeting of the Design Guidelines Committee and made some significant progress towards preparing updated chapter. The committee will meet again in early August with the intent to bring a group of chapters to the Board for their review and adoption at a meeting in September.
- 1201 East Abingdon: At the July 6, 2023 BAR hearing, the Board will be considering a Concept Review for an addition and the conversion of the existing office building at 1201 East Abingdon into a multi-family residential building.
- Samuel Madden: The BAR will be holding a special hearing on July 26 to consider the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Samuel Madden project. The special hearing is being held to allow for the congestion of other cases at the regular hearings in July.
- Freedom House: The Board will be considering the Certificate of Appropriateness for the restoration work at the Freedom House building at one of the July hearings.

OHA Report: Eleanor Breen on behalf of Gretchen Bulova

- Recognize HAF for their \$5,000 donation to support the digitization of oral histories taken between the 1970s and 2000 that were recorded on cassette tapes and VHS tapes.
- Working on a scope of work and approvals from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as well as the BAR for exterior restoration of 1315 Duke Street. This includes returning the front façade to its original Federal era architecture, siding replacement, window renewal/replacement, and water remediation. 1315 Duke Street has both an interior and exterior easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
- Public meeting on the preservation work planned for Douglass Cemetery was held Monday, June 12th. City staff, in collaboration with descendants of those buried in the cemetery, the Social Responsibility Group, and Friends of Douglass Cemetery have been meeting regularly to review preservation needs and goals. OHA's oral history manager has been an essential part of these conversations and is working to record the stories of living family members.
- Juneteenth events were held, organized by multiple city departments including OHA, RCPA, and the Alexandria Library.
- Alexandria Archaeology completed a successful first year monitoring program of the historic ship timbers submerged at Ben Brenman Pond.

Public Comment

- Revisions were offered to two of the names on the list and an additional name was suggested.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will take place on July 18, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Breen, OHA