

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
Sean Ferguson  
Laura Lieberman  
Linda Lovell  
Deborah Osborne  
Gail Rothrock  
Lisa Schumaier  
Danny Smith  
Roberta Stevens  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

**REMOTE:**

Tom Schultz  
Mark Farkus  
Martha Raymond

**EXCUSED:**

Bailee Barfield  
Tom Soule  
Catherine Weinraub

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

Greg Paspatas

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:04 p.m., an in-person quorum was established. Three members participated remotely via Teams.

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

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Danny Smith and seconded by Linda Lovell. The July 18, 2023, minutes were approved.

### **Chairs Update:**

- Chair thanked everyone for participating in the HARC Retreat on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Bailee Barfield – Volunteer (Excused absence)

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH)

- Pews have been removed from the sanctuary
- August 29, 6 to 8:30, next Zoning for Housing public meeting at the Holiday Inn off of Eisenhower Avenue.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Restoring basement masonry, lot of projects going on

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Working to reopen 7 days a week, now open Thursday through Monday

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2

- No report

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- No report

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- No report

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- Held annual meeting and elected two new pharmacy association board members
- Board meeting planned for this Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to elect officers

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (AHRPC)

- No report

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- No report

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- No report

Tom Schultz – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- No report

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TFAC this year
- Updated the commission on current operations of the TFAC by the Office on the Arts

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- No report
- Ivy Whitlach asked is the BID will have any board members from the preservation community. Danny Smith offered to inquire.

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (Excused absence)

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- \$40,000 grant to Lee Fendall House for Historic Structures Report, publicity in the Zebra

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No report

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (Excused absence)

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- No report

**New Business:**

- Annual Report – closing following last year's report by Chairman Smith, planning to meet the end of August deadline.
- Nominating Committee – for the election of next year's officers at the November meeting, Steve Stuart, Donna DeBlasio, and Danny Smith offered to serve on the nominating committee.

- Ivy Whitlach proposed that HARC establish a committee in collaboration with the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (in addition to other local organizations) to nominate the Wilkes Street Cemeteries for the National Register of Historic Places. Discussion included questioning if this was in HARC's purview or not. It was decided to revisit this topic at the next meeting.
- The "Bottle Digger" excavating resident privies and wells with no permit or conversation with Alexandria Archaeology was discussed, and the glowing press being given by the Zebra was noted. This does not violate any existing laws and a public advocacy campaign needs to be implemented.

### **Old Business:**

- HARC Retreat Follow Up
  - Draft Strategic Plan offered by Vice Chair Sean Ferguson was reviewed.
  - Discussion on the definition of historic resources, what does it encompass?
  - Appreciation was offered to Sean for pulling this document together for review.
- Follow up discussion to June Presentation by Rod Kuckro, Town of Potomac on Preservation Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places List of 2023
  - Draft letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the Preservation Virginia Most Endangered list nomination was reviewed with a recommendation to re-examine the zoning for that area.
  - Discussion also included reading the letter at a public comment period of the next Council meeting.
  - Motion to approve the letter was made by Ivy Whitlach and seconded by Deborah Osborne with the minor edits recommended. The letter will be sent via Alex311. Motion passed.
- Letter to City Council requesting update to HARC composition
  - Received feedback from the City Manager Office to edit the name of the Torpedo Factory Artists Association and reduce the proposed membership increase to 27 members (previously 26) back to the original 26 Commission members.
  - Motion to change the wording to a Lease Holding Artist at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center by Sean Ferguson and seconded by Lisa Schumaier. Motion passed.
  - Motion to change the number of Civic Association Representatives to one, instead of the proposed two, was made by Danny Smith and seconded by Carol Black. Motion passed.
  - This will be on the September 12, 2023 City Council docket.
- Letter from HARC, AAC, and PRAC to the City Manager on behalf of OHA to fund a new collections off-site storage facility.
  - Ivy Whitlach offered to take the lead on writing the letter.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- Nice turn out at the August 8 Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas, which included a marker dedication, procession, and wreath laying.
- Footage was taken for the ACRP documentary.

#### Advocacy –Martha Raymond

- Considering changing the meeting time to later in the day to increase participation in the subcommittee. Would 4:30 be a better time? Please reach out to Martha Raymond. Any changes will begin at the October meeting.
- Next meeting will be September 5 at 10 a.m. at La Madeline. New members encouraged!

#### OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- No report

#### Freedom House Master Plan – Donna DeBlasio

- No report

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

- Linda Lovell offered the report.
- Final meeting was held Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The names will be sent to the Naming Committee at the end of August.
- Three additional names include Thomasina Jordan (first American Indian to serve in the United States Electoral College. Later an Alexandria resident Jordan is already an existing street), Loving Street (for Mildred and Richard Loving), John Henry Peters Sr. (African American resident of the Fort Community who refused to be forced out to build Fort Ward Park).
- Also proposed three additional names at the meeting including the two known Alexandria lynching victims Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas and the Silent Sentinels in honor of the suffragists who had been arrested, jailed, tortured, and then vindicated in March 1918 when their conviction was reversed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in Alexandria.
- September 28 will be the Naming Committee Meeting, open to the public but not open to public discussion.
- The Commission acknowledged the tremendous and quick work of the subcommittee as well as the members of the public, including Greg Paspatas in attendance tonight, who contributed.
- Motion was made by Donna DeBlasio and seconded by Danny Smith to accept the list of names and submit the Naming Committee. Motion passed.

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

- No update for this meeting

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

- Reviving the Historic Alexandria Quarterly to showcase our department's research, collections, and recent accomplishments. Publication will be mailed to museum donors and members – and will be available on our website.
- Planning Alexandria Forum on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Lyceum. This annual conference will feature the latest scholarship by OHA and Alexandria researchers. This year will focus on the waterfront history.
- Basement interior painting is now finished at Fort Ward and wrapping up soon at the Black History Museums. The fumes from the dry-loc paint have necessitated closing to the public. The replacement of the large front window in the Parker-Gray Gallery will be replaced this fall.
- Recruiting for a family programs coordinator. This is a new position for OHA.

### **Public Comment**

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next meeting will take place on September 19, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA