

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

PRESENT: (in person)

Bailee Barfield
Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Shawn Eyer
Sean Ferguson
Linda Lovell
Deborah Osborne
Martha Raymond
Gail Rothrock
Tom Schultz
Lisa Schumaier
Danny Smith
Roberta Stevens
Steve Stuart
Ivy Whitlatch

REMOTE:

EXCUSED:

Donna DeBlasio
Mark Farkus
Laura Lieberman
Catherine Weinraub

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Bill Conkey, BAR

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for August 19, 2023:

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Danny Smith and seconded by Christopher Brownlowe. The August 19, 2023, minutes were approved.

Chairs Update:

- Chair provided an update on the HARC letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the Town of Potomac “Endangered Nomination.” Mayor Wilson and Councilmember Alyia Gaskins sent responses. Motion by Carol Black and seconded by Gail Rothrock to send a response to Mayor Wilson, as he asked two questions. Motion passed.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteer

- Lee Fendall House Museum is hosting its annual fundraiser on September 23. Tickets available online.

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH)

- Reported on recent meeting of Housing/Zoning for All.
- Highlighted the September/October issue of Alexandria Living, which features development in Alexandria.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Completed restoration projects in the building’s basement for the season.
- Met with BAR staff to select appropriate replacement hardware for the front door.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1 (excused absence)

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- No report

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- PRAC is working toward making digital collections at the Archives accessible online.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society (also offering a report for the Alexandria Historical Society)

- Reported on the September 27th lecture for the Alexandria Historical Society, featuring OHA staff member Tatiana Niculescu.
- AHS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024 and is looking to collaborate with other organizations also celebrating anniversaries.

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

- Approved a porch on the back of 418 S. Lee Street, open space easement on the property.
- Nate Hurto, representing Save Del Ray, made a presentation and was interested in easements on properties in Del Ray.
- Commission considering another outreach session on conservation and outdoor easements.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Rosemont Citizens Association meeting tomorrow night. Looking at Zoning for Housing and if the Association will take a position.
- Residents received annual stormwater/flooding information to be proactive.

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Annual HAF fundraising “Toast of the Town” will be held on November 18, 2023.

Tom Schultz – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- Reported that Gretchen Bulova gave a talk to the Civic Association

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists

- No report

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Real Estate perspective, housing pricing remaining steady and increasing at 2% with the high mortgage rates.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Lecture “Marquis de La Fayette’s 1824 Visit” by Julien Icher on Monday, October 16th.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- Speed limit lowered on Beauregard to 25 miles per hour. This change has received considerable media attention.

Catherine Weinraub – Alexandria Historical Society (Excused absence)

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- Archaeology's submerged ship timbers were monitored by Navy Divers and the VDHR underwater archaeologist at Ben Brenman Pond today.

New Business:

- No new business items

Old Business:

- Annual Report – The FY2023 Annual Report was submitted to the City Clerk's Office along with the FY2023 Attendance Report.
- Nominating Committee –
 - The nominating committee consisting of Steve Stuart, Donna DeBlasio, and Danny Smith offered the following slate: Shawn Eyer, Chair; Sean Ferguson, Vice Chair; and Roberta Stevens, Secretary.
 - Elections will be held in November.
- Draft strategic plan -
 - Draft Strategic Plan offered by Vice Chair Sean Ferguson was reviewed.
 - Discussion included partnership with organizations to protect endangered resources and removal of reference to Jones Point Lighthouse.
 - Motion by Sean Ferguson and seconded by Tom Schultz to approve the Strategic Plan as amended. Motion passed.
- Proposed National Register Nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemeteries -
 - 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.
 - Requirements for cemeteries to be listed on the National Register described in Bulletin 41.
 - Discussion included the capacity of OHA and HARC members to write the National Register nomination.
 - The idea was supported but is tabled for the time being. The nomination should be reconsidered in 2 years.
- 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 circulated a draft of the letter and Bailee Barfield offered to edit it further.
 - The letter will need support from the other commissions before sending to the City Manager and Council for the November 3 deadline.
- HARC composition change -
 - Passed on the consent calendar at the September 12, 2023 City Council meeting.

- The public hearing portion of the process will take place on September 23 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. The item is on the consent calendar.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- No report

Advocacy –Martha Raymond

- Highlighted that there will be Torpedo Factory anniversary event in September 2024.
- Next meeting will be October 3 at 10 a.m. at La Madeline. New members encouraged!
- The November member will be rescheduled due to election day.

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

- Names list compiled by HARC was submitted to the City Manager’s office.
- The Naming Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome but there will not be an opportunity for them to speak.

Board of Architectural Review Update: Bill Conkey

- Samuel Madden

The Samuel Madden multi-family buildings will return to the BAR at their hearing on October 4, 2023. The applicant has revised the design in response to comments from staff and the Board including revising the previously submitted vinyl windows to new windows that comply with the BAR policies.

- 720 King Street Appeal

The owner of 720 King Street has appealed the BAR denial for an after-the-fact approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the painting of the ground floor of the property at 720 King Street. This appeal will be heard at the City Council this weekend, Saturday September 23. Staff recommended approval of the application based on the later date of the installation of the brick on the front of the structure.

- Design Guidelines

At the hearing tomorrow evening, September 20, 2023, the Design Guidelines Committee will be presenting the first round of updated Design Guideline chapters to the Board for their review. These new chapters utilize a new graphic template and organization for the

information including regulatory requirements design information, and a section on property owner education.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- Fall ACRP program this Saturday, September 23 from 1 to 3:30 at The Lyceum. The program features Freedom Rider Joan Mulholland and her son. They will show video clips to illustrate their presentation and have books and merchandise to sell. Tickets are free but reservations are recommended.
- Starting conservation on the bronzes at Freedmen's Cemetery. Work will run September 25 to October 2. We are refreshing the sacred space in anticipation of the 10th year anniversary next September.
- Alexandria Forum on October 20th featuring the latest Waterfront history scholarship. Volunteers receive a discount, so register early.
- Preparing to send three markers for approval by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources – Samuel Tucker's Office, Fairfax County Resolves, and the Parker-Gray School.
- Wrapping up recruitment for a full-time Communications Manager.
- Museums will be closed Thursday and Friday for staff professional development. We have two great trainers joining us to talk about interpreting difficult history.
- The red tote bag at your seat is a thank you gift from the City of Alexandria for your volunteer service!

Public Comment

- No members of the public attended.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. The next meeting will take place on October 17, 2023, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, OHA