

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Bailee Barfield  
Carol Black  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
Sean Ferguson  
Linda Lovell  
Deborah Osborne  
Martha Raymond  
Rebecca Rose  
Gail Rothrock  
Danny Smith  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

**REMOTE:**

Mark Farkus

**EXCUSED:**

Laura Lieberman  
Barbara Marvin, newly appointed  
Tom Schultz  
Lisa Schumaier  
Roberta Stevens

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA

**Prior to the Meeting, starting at 7:03 p.m.:**

The Chair provided a Guideline for Civil Discourse to use as a guideline during HARC meetings.

- Points include treating colleagues with respect and courtesy; respecting other's time by being clear and concise in motions, comments, and questions; expressing ideas and opinions in an open and helpful manner; avoiding personalizing issues; and listening and letting other express their ideas and opinions.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:08 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes for September 19, 2023:**

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Linda Lovell and seconded by Bailee Barfield. The September 19, 2023, minutes were approved.

**Chairs Update:**

Chair welcomed new member Rebecca Rose, representing the Alexandria Historical Society.

**Presentation:** Alexandria Archaeology Commission (AAC) update by Ivy Whitlach, AAC chair

- Highlights of the presentation included: October is Archaeology Month! The month is filled with educational and fun activities for all ages; the 2023 Ben Brenman Award was presented to the Archaeology Camp Counselors at the October 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting; A new electric van – the first in the City – is now part of OHA's fleet and Archaeology staff are taking the van to events to share educational materials and information; and information on archaeology's partners and friends in the community.
- Special mention was made that Emma Richardson was featured on WJLA Good Morning Washington on October 13 to promote Archaeology Month and the great work of Alexandria Archaeology.

**Commissioner Updates:**

Bailee Barfield – Volunteer Representative

- No report

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH)

- No report

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- No report

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Living Legends annual reception is October 18 at the Memorial.
- Intersection of King/Callahan/Russell Roads is in progress, with planning initiated in 2014. The Memorial weighed in the project and the original design implications. The goal is to make the intersection more bike and pedestrian friendly.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 2 (excused absence)

- No report

Sean Ferguson – Public Records Advisory Commission

- PRAC has 3 vacancies.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (excused absence)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- No report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1 (new, not attending yet)

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

- No report

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- Rosemont Citizens Association meeting Oct 25. They will be talking about the rail bridge construction at Commonwealth Blvd and King Street.
- Two banners in Del Ray promoting Town of Potomac's endangered status.

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society

- No report

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) (excused absence)

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory Artists (excused absence)

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Reporting that slate stands from the last meeting. No additional nominations.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association (excused absence)

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

- AAC is going to set up an exploratory committee to see what will be involved in creating historic nomination status for the Wilkes Street Cemeteries.

### **New Business:**

- Motion by Carol Black to require any written material that is to be discussed at the monthly meeting to be sent to OHA no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting to enable OHA to send materials to HARC members in a timely manner. Seconded by Steve Stuart.
  - An amendment was proposed by Danny Smith and seconded by Donna DeBlasio “unless a majority of the commissioners present vote to override the restriction.” Discussion. The motion passed.
  - An amendment was proposed by Carol Black and seconded by Danny Smith that this restriction apply to issues requiring a vote. The motion passed.
  - Discussion included the idea of this being a by-laws addition. It was also discussed that members attempt to put forth materials in a timelier fashion for consideration at a meeting.
  - The motion as amended failed.

### **Old Business:**

- HARC composition change
  - Danny Smith reported that the composition change passed unanimously on the consent calendar at both the September 12 and September 23 City Council meetings. Thanks were offered to Michael Hobbs for his tremendous work on this project.
- Letter from HARC, AAC, and PRAC to the City Manager on behalf of OHA to fund a new collections off-site storage facility.
  - Motion was made Sean Ferguson and seconded by Danny Smith. The motion passed.
- Town of Potomac follow-up letter to Mayor Wilson.
  - Motion was made by Sean Ferguson and seconded Donna DeBlasio to accept the letter as written. Discussion. Motion to send the letter with suggested edits that include the date of the original letter, appropriate scale, etc. Motion passed.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – Mark Farkus

- The ACRP is being honored by the Alexandria NAACP this Saturday at their annual awards dinner.
- Forming two student scholarships for two ACPS students. The committee is starting fundraising efforts.
- Work continues on a documentary with Robin Hamilton, local film maker.

#### Advocacy – Donna DeBlasio reported for Martha Raymond

- October 3 meeting included discussion of the Concept Review at the 1604-1614 King Street townhouses;
- Looked at and discussed the Zoning For Housing draft proposal that came out on October 2 as well as the Coalition for a Livable Alexandria’s assessment of Zoning for Housing’s proposal. Both documents are available on the organization’s respective websites.
- The November member will be rescheduled to November 14 to avoid a conflict with election day on November 7.

#### 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 made a presentation on behalf of HARC at the City Council Naming Committee meeting on Thursday, September 28. She explained HARC’s process for the names submitted to the Naming Committee. Council members thanked HARC for their thoughtful work.
- Six street names were selected for the initial process: N. Breckinridge Place, N Frost, N/S Early, N/S Jordan, Jordan Place, and Forrest.
- Possible replacement names: Benjamin Banneker, Sarah Gray, Ona Judge, Harriet Jacobs, Hughes, and Forest.
- It was proposed that Jordan be changed to Hughes, a family that was enslaved in the Foxchase area and that Forrest be changed to Forest.
- Next public meeting will be November 30 at 6 p.m. in City Hall. Public comment will be welcome. Information about the street name change process is available online. Materials are available in multiple languages.

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

- Samuel Madden

After the DSUP was approved by City Council, the BAR reviewed the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the two buildings included in the Samuel Madden Project. At the first hearing, the Board made comments on the proposal including the

design of the gateway element at the north end of the north building, the design for fiber cement panels throughout, and a request that the applicant propose windows that comply with the BAR policies on new and replacement windows. The applicant made each of the requested revisions and the Board approved the Certificate of Appropriateness at the October 4, 2023 hearing.

- **King Street Condos**

At the October 4, 2023, hearing the Board provided feedback on a Concept Review for the development of a multi-family project at 1604-1614 King Street. The project includes the demolition of all but the facades at the existing townhouses at 1604-1612 King Street, the complete demolition of the townhouse at 1614 King Street, and the construction of a multi-family building at the south end of the project site, behind the townhouses. The Board provided guidance related to the extent of demolition and the height, scale, mass and character of the proposed project. Some Board members expressed concern regarding the extent of demolition but asked the applicant for additional information prior to a request for a Permit to Demolish. The Board provided guidance on the development of the character for the new multi-family building.

- **Design Guidelines**

At a recent BAR hearing, members of the Design Guidelines Committee presented the proposed template and the first round of reformatted Design Guideline chapters. The Board provided feedback on the design of the template and made comments regarding the content of the chapters. The Committee has revised those chapters and will be taking them to the Board for a vote at the November 2, 2023, hearing.

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

- Pleased to report that OHA received a Virginia Tourism Corporation grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support two interpretive signs (Fairfax County Resolves and Lafayette visit in 1824) and dedication events as part of VA250. These events will be held in collaboration with Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Carlyle House, and the American Friends of Lafayette.
- Working on a “rescue” mission with the Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library to preserve bound volumes of the Gazette that were being damaged at the Alexandria Gazette offices. The volumes are as old as 1803 but do not include the years of the Civil War.
- Dedication of a plaque in honor of former councilwoman Lois Walker will take place at the Alexandria Train Station on Sunday, October 29 at 4 p.m. This will honor her work with rail transportation in the City. All are welcome.
- Tomorrow, easement review by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources of 1315 Duke Street, Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, and the Lloyd House will take place.
- November 8/9<sup>th</sup>, students from Gonzaga High School will visit 1315 Duke and then pilgrimage to the waterfront and hold a small ceremony to honor the enslaved man

Gabriel who was owned by the school. Students researched Gabriel's history and created exhibit panels that will be temporarily on view at 1315 Duke.

- The Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee plan to attend this year's Scottish Walk weekend.
- A few spaces remain for this Friday's Alexandria Forum featuring the latest Waterfront history scholarship. It runs 9 to 5, with a reception at 4 p.m. If you are interested, please register soon at the volunteer rate.

**Request to change November 21 meeting:**

A poll will be sent to members to ensure quorum at the meeting, as it is close to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Public Comment**

- No members of the public attended.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 21, 2023, at the Lloyd House – unless cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA