

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

PRESENT: (in person)

Bailee Barfield
Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Donna DeBlasio
Shawn Eyer
Laura Lieberman
Mia Mulrennan
Deborah Osborne
Martha Raymond
Rebecca Rose
Tim Rose
Gail Rothrock
Tom Schultz
Russell Simonaro
Roberta Stevens
Danny Smith
Steve Stuart

REMOTE:

EXCUSED:

Mark Farkas
Barbara Marvin
Ivy Whitlatch

ABSENT:

Lisa Schumaier

GUESTS:

Megan Ravert, University of Maryland graduate student

CITY STAFF:

Eleanor Breen, OHA
Abby Schreiber, OHA
William Conkey, BAR Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:06 p.m. after a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2024:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Roberta Stevens and seconded by Steve Stuart. The February 20, 2024, minutes were approved.

Presentation: Waterfront History Updates, Dr. Abby Schreiber

- Abby, a research historian supporting the flood mitigation project, presented on the comprehensive study of the history of properties near the waterfront between Duke and Oronoco Streets as well a future waterfront history interpretation.

Chairs Update:

- New member Mia Mulrennan was welcomed.
- A fond farewell was bid to Danny Smith and Martha Raymond with thanks for their service.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- No report

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- A new pastor has been hired for Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- Chris recommended checking the nvfaa.org website for the busy schedule of exhibits and showings.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- The Lee Fendall House will have been open for 50 years on March 26.
- Washington's birthday was a successful celebration, including the George Washington Symposium on presidential funerals.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 3

- Excused absence

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- A range of public programs from walking tours to an Easter egg hunt will be taking place in the next few weeks. For additional information, visit <https://leefendallhouse.org/>.
- For April, more Civil War tours and programs and possibly a cemetery tour are planned.
- An exhibit of the paintings of Horace Day will open this week. The exhibit runs for two months.

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No report

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

- Three active easements are before the commission including 1117 Prince Street and the Swann-Daingerfield House.
- Enforcement of easements is also a topic of consideration.

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2

- No Report

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society

- The March lecture is by Ted Pulliam featuring his new book.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Grant applications are due by May 1.
- One application for a historic plaque is before the board.
- Their annual party is scheduled for the first Sunday of June.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- No Report

Lisa Schumaier – Lease Holding Artist at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Russell is looking forward to the 275th buttons.

Danny Smith – Tourism and Business Community

- Danny is ending his 10-year term as a HARC member.
- The celebrations of George Washington went very well.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Roberta encouraged HARC members to attend the April 15 program on Greek Classicism.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Excused absence

New Business:

- A HARC representative is needed for the upcoming Comprehensive Plan for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House.
- Carol Black reported about the upcoming Agenda Alexandria forum regarding the arena.
- Carol Black reported on discussions about a historic overlay zone in Del Ray with research to commence from the Del Ray Citizens Association. The City Council voted down a proposal to construct on a substandard lot in Del Ray.
- There was discussion about whether there needs to be a Vice Chair.

Old Business:

- Regarding new member onboarding, one idea is to provide a list of acronyms for new members. Steve Stuart and Laura Leiberman will work on updating the information provided to new members.
- Commission vacancies were reported and members encouraged to spread the word.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Mark Farkus, HARC Representative

- ACRP is planning the April 23 Remembrance for lynching victim Joseph McCoy at 7 p.m. at Penny Hill Cemetery. All are invited.

Advocacy – Gail Rothrock and Donna DeBlasio, Co-Chairs

- The next meeting will be the first Tuesday in April. They are seeking new members.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- No Report

Freedom House Comprehensive Plan– Donna DeBlasio, HARC Representative

- The final report from the SmithGroup will be presented virtually on April 30th at 3 p.m. The presentation and report will be posted on the project site after the meeting.

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

- BAR Appeal – 1021-1025 King Street

The applicant proposed to use wood composite windows on this early building. The BAR denied the application noting that the guidelines require wood windows on Early buildings. On March 16, 2024, the City Council heard the appeal and affirmed the decision of the BAR, denying the application.

- BAR Appeal – 613 S Royal Street

Staff received a complaint regarding the painting of unpainted masonry at 613 S Royal Street and issued a violation to the owners. Painting of the property was stopped before it could be completed, pending approval by the BAR. The house was originally constructed in 1985 and several nearby houses that were built at the same time are painted. Given these factors, the Board approved the application for after-the-fact approval of the painting with several conditions including one saying that the applicant should paint all portions of the building visible from a public right of way. The owners resumed painting but decided that they did not want to paint the North elevation. They visited the BAR on February 21, 2024 to remove the condition that all visible elevations be painted. The BAR denied this application and the owners have appealed that decision. The City Council will hear this appeal on April 13, 2024.

- Design Guidelines Update

The Design Guidelines Committee will be meeting on March 26 at 9:00 a.m. The committee will review several chapters at this meeting with the intention of bringing them to the Board for adoption in April. BAR will be finalizing the masonry chapter and focusing on updating the window chapter.

- 112 North Washington Street

On Saturday March 16, the City Council allowed the change in use for the building at 112 North Washington Street into a school operated by the Linder Academy. We expect that modifications to the exterior will be proposed in order to accommodate this use. Staff has not yet received any applications associated with this work.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova, report given by Eleanor Breen on behalf of Ms. Bulova

- The Office of Historic Alexandria received an Innovation Award from the Virginia Association of Museums as part of this year’s museum conference. OHA was recognized for the work as a “Museum without Walls” as well as its work with the Alexandria

Community Remembrance Project (ACRP), community oral history, and descendant engagement.

- On April 6th, City departments will formally launch the 275th Anniversary of the founding of the City of Alexandria with a celebration at Waterfront Park. Festivities include an opening proclamation, exhibition performance of the Alexandria Pipe and Drums, classic cars, a tree planting, a ceremonial sail of the Tall Ship Providence, music, departmental booths and more.
- A highlight of the 275th Launch will be a special ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. of the new archaeology exhibit featuring the excavated ships at Robinson Landing. This will be on view at the former Robinson Landing sales office through December 2024.
- OHA is waiting on easement approval to begin the exterior restoration of 1315 Duke Street. Once that is received, scaffolding will go up and the work start.
- The doors and windows restoration project for Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Apothecary Museum will be wrapping up in the next few weeks. The project includes exterior as well as interior painting.

Public Comment

- A University of Maryland graduate student, Megan Ravert, was in attendance to observe the meeting for her Historic Preservation program.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 16, 2024, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Breen, OHA