

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Lloyd House**  
**220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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**PRESENT: (in person)**

Christopher Brownlowe  
Donna DeBlasio  
Shawn Eyer  
David Kovalik  
Mia Mulrennan  
John Patrick  
Rebecca Rose  
Tim Rose  
Gail Rothrock  
Russell Simonaro  
Roberta Stevens  
Steve Stuart

**REMOTE:**

Ivy Whitlatch

**EXCUSED:**

Bailee Barfield  
Carol Black  
Mark Farkas  
Laura Lieberman  
Deborah Osborne

**ABSENT:**

Barbara Marvin  
Tom Schultz  
Lisa Schumaier

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Whitney Umarov, OHA  
William Conkey, BAR Staff

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:04 p.m. after a quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes for March 19, 2024:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The March 19, 2024 minutes were approved.

**Chairs Update:**

- New members John Patrick and David Kovalik were welcomed.

**Commissioner Updates:**

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Excused absence

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- Excused absence

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- No report

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- No report

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- David, a new member, was introduced.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 3

- Excused absence

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House (Report provided by Shawn Eyer)

- Excused Absence
- There is a new exhibit at the Lee Fendall House Museum through the end of May.
- The Lee Fendall Garden will be open free of charge on April 20 with visitors able to wander throughout the building.

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- Absent

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No report

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

- Excused Absence

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- John, a new member, was introduced.

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society

- Annual AHS awards will be presented on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

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 Foundation's Board.
- HAF's annual party is scheduled for the first Sunday of June.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Absent

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

- Absent

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Russell reported a good turnout for 275<sup>th</sup> kickoff.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- HARC members were invited to the Alexandria Association's May 20 program on the gardens of Newport ("America's Eden: Newport Landscapes Through the Ages").

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- A report was given on the Robinson Ship Exhibit Opening.
- Next steps for listing the Wilkes Street Cemetery on the National Register for Cemeteries and Burial Places are underway.

- Preparations are underway for celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AAC.

### **New Business:**

- Shawn Eyer shared greetings and appreciation from Martha Raymond for her HARC sendoff.
- Shawn Eyer stated the need to appoint a representative to the Torpedo Factory Stakeholder Meetings. There were no volunteers at this time.
- Russell Simonaro reported that lettering had been removed from the Gilpin House. It is a temporary situation and lettering will be reinstalled.

### **Old Business:**

- Gail Rothrock will be the HARC representative on the Comprehensive Plan for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House.
- New member onboarding will be held one hour prior to the May meeting. All are welcome to attend the presentation.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

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

- No report

Advocacy – Gail Rothrock and Donna DeBlasio, Co-Chairs

- The Advocacy group met on April 2, Gail noted that the Old Town Civic Association met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and the Department of Project Implementation (DPI) gave a presentation on waterfront flooding mitigation. There was general interest in a presentation for HARC on plans for the waterfront flood mitigation and particularly the pump house proposed for the foot of Prince Street.
- The next Advocacy meeting will be Tuesday, May 7. They are seeking new members.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- Steve is working with Laura Lieberman to clarify HARC terms and acronyms. Roberta Stevens noted that the HARC monthly meeting minutes spell out what the acronyms represent in the minutes.

Freedom House Comprehensive Plan– Donna DeBlasio, HARC Representative

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

### **Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey**

- BAR Appeal – 613 South Royal Street  
Staff received a complaint regarding the painting of unpainted masonry at 613 South 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 painting with several conditions, including that the applicant 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 and visited the BAR on February 21, 2024 to remove the condition regarding the painting of all visible elevation. BAR denied this application and the owners appealed the decision. On Saturday April 13, 2024, the City Council affirmed BAR's decision requiring that all visible portions of the house be painted.

- **BAR Public Outreach**

During the appeal for 613 South Royal Street, the City Council asked Historic Properties staff to increase public outreach regarding the rules and processes associated with BAR. BAR is planning to hold an educational community meeting in May as part of Historic Preservation Month. A date and location for the meeting has not yet been determined. HARC members will be notified once it has been finalized.

Roberta Stevens asked if the rules were available online. Bill said that they were and Roberta suggested having the web address be included in realtors information to new owners and in local publications.

- **720 North Saint Asaph Street**

Tomorrow night the BAR will consider modifications being proposed to the office building at 720 North Saint Asaph Street to convert the building into multi-unit residential use. The building was originally constructed in 1966 and is unique because it is one of the few buildings in the brutalist architectural style. The modifications will include the creation of ground floor retail in place of the existing grade level parking; a new exterior wall at the second, third and fourth floors; and a new roof deck. The design will retain its brutalist style.

- **301 North Fairfax Street**

The Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for the multi-unit residential building proposed for 301 North Fairfax Street has been approved by the City Council and the project will return to the Board for a Certificate of Appropriateness at the May 15, 2024 BAR hearing. The BAR held concept review sessions for the project prior to the approval of the DSUP. The design has been modified since those reviews in response to comments from the Planning Commission and City Council.

## **OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova, report given by Whitney Umarov on behalf of Ms. Bulova**

- The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project is planning the April 23rd Remembrance for lynching victim Joseph McCoy at 7 p.m. at Penny Hill Cemetery. All are invited.
- Spring2Action has started with early giving opening April 10<sup>th</sup>. For Spring2Action this year, OHA will be fundraising for the upcoming Moss Kendrix exhibit at the Black History Museum. Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> is the 24-hour giving day. Again this year, OHA will host a power hour reception at the Lloyd House from 6 to 8 p.m., with the power hour of giving between 7 and 8 p.m. HARC was invited to join OHA for the fun!
- The Buried Ships of Robinson Landing exhibit formally opened on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit is meant to be viewed from the outside and is open 24/7. Thanks go to the many HARC members who attended the ribbon cutting!
- OHA received an easement approval to begin the exterior restoration of 1315 Duke Street. The work will begin in the next few weeks. Currently plans are to keep the museum open to the public during the restoration.
- The doors and windows restoration project for Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Apothecary Museum will be wrapping up in the next few weeks. Please notice the new windows on the top floors of Gadsby's Tavern Museum!
- The Douglass Cemetery water remediation project is in its final planning phase. Stakeholder meeting presentations are on OHA's website. This phase one project will replace the storm water pipe and improve water drainage through the site.
- This is Volunteer Appreciation Week and OHA thanks you for your service to the city through participation on HARC!

### **Public Comment**

- No public attendance

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 21, 2024, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Whitney Umarov, OHA