

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

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**PRESENT:**

Donna DeBlasio  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Shawn Eyer  
David Kovalik  
Barbara Marvin  
Mia Mulrennan  
Deborah Osborne  
John Patrick  
Rebecca Rose  
Tim Rose  
Gail Rothrock  
Lisa Schumaier  
Russell Simonaro  
Roberta Stevens  
Ivy Whitlatch

**REMOTE:**

Carol Black  
Mark Farkas

**EXCUSED:**

Bailee Barfield  
Laura Lieberman  
Steve Stuart

**ABSENT:**

Tom Schultz

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Whitney Umarov, OHA Staff

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:00 p.m. after a quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes for June 18, 2024:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Shawn Eyer and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The June 17, 2024 minutes were approved as amended.

**Commissioner Updates:**

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- No report

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- No report

Chris Brownlowe – Athenaeum/Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

- The Board approved installation of an accessible entrance and restroom at the Athenaeum.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- The Lee-Fendall House Museum’s painting project has begun. A reddish-brown historical paint color from 1850s was determined to have been used and will be re-created again
- George Washington Masonic Memorial – The new Executive Director will start soon. For the first time, the community was welcomed officially on the Memorial’s grounds for the July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- No report

Mark Farkus – Planning District 3

- No report

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- No report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- An update was given on a local company called Blue Fern Travel that does food and history tours in Old Town. Proceeds go to support alleviating hunger.
- A request was made for anyone with experience in writing museum proposals for help in exploring the establishment of a dog museum in Old Town.

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

- There are 9-10 inspections scheduled between now and September.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No report

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society

- Alexandria Historical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and rolling out the Golden Grants Program of competitive grants up to \$2,000 for projects on Alexandria or Northern Virginia history. Applications are due by September 4, 2024. The project period runs through September 2025. The Alexandria Historical Society's Behind the Scenes tour was also mentioned.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- Christ Church is interested in creating historic displays next to their gift shop. They welcome individuals interested in helping with this project.

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- HAF is working on a coffee table book. There will be no August meeting.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- No report

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

- Nothing major to report from the recent Task Force Meeting. The Torpedo Factory is losing artists but having difficulty in getting new ones that meet requirements.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Acknowledged the celebration of the 275<sup>th</sup> birthday of Alexandria.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The Association is in the process of lining up speakers for its 2024-2025 membership year. The first program will be held in November at The Lyceum. One of the speakers will be Shawn Eyer presenting on the Lee-Fendall House Museum's structural survey.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Nothing major to report from Torpedo Factory Art Center's (TFAC) stakeholder meeting.
- HARC recognizing the TFAC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was discussed.

**New Business:**

- Ivy Whitlatch suggested that HARC play a leadership role in recognizing and amplifying the anniversaries of Alexandria's historic institutions, including reaching out to relevant groups on raising their profile. A possible program for City Council members was mentioned. The scale of this initiative was discussed as well as clarifying the mandate of HARC.

**Old Business:**

- The FY24 Annual Report will be finished soon for review by HARC.
- At a previous Waterfront Implementation Project meeting, a consensus was reached regarding arranging for a guest speaker.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

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

- The Benjamin Thomas Remembrance will be held August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The documentary on Alexandria's lynching history has been completed and a film debut is planned for September 21 at the Masonic Memorial.

Advocacy – Gail Rothrock and Donna DeBlasio, Co-Chairs

- No report

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- No report

Murray-Dick-Fawcett House Comprehensive Plan– Gail Rothrock, HARC Representative

- No report

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

- 301 North Fairfax Street - On July 2, 2024, the City Council heard the appeal of the BAR approval for the Certificate of Appropriateness for new construction. The Board was

represented by the Chair, who described the discussions surrounding their approval. After some discussion, the City Council affirmed the decision of the BAR with the conditions of approval that the Board adopted.

- Robinson Terminal North - The Board will be hearing the second concept review for the Robinson Terminal North project at the July 16, 2024 BAR hearing. This project is unique in that it is outside the historic district but the waterfront plan requires that the BAR hold concept review sessions on the design prior to the approval of the Development Special Use Permit. The project will not return to the BAR for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Board made favorable comments regarding the design at the last hearing and the design has changed to address the comments from staff and the Board.
- Design Guidelines - The Board will be considering some modifications to the roof chapter of the Guidelines at the July 16, 2024 BAR hearing. These are minor modifications to the previously approved version that will address some comments that have arisen since their adoption. The Design Guidelines Committee will be working over the Summer on additional chapters including the window chapter, which is one of the most commonly used sections of the guidelines.

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

- HARC members were invited to view four new exhibitions:
  - a. Buried Ships of Robinson Landing, a viewable exhibit morning to evening on Pioneer Mill Way.
  - b. Lewis Cass White: Preserving the Legacy of Fort Stevens, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site  
To honor the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens, guests will learn more about Lewis Cass White and his large collection of almost 200 documents, objects, and photographs related to his Civil War service and post-war mission to preserve the Defenses of Washington.
  - c. Mapping Alexandria: Stories of a Changing City, Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum  
Block by block, guests will explore the stories of Alexandria. This exhibition, which marks the 275th anniversary of the City's founding, delves into the evolution and history of Alexandria through the words of its residents.
  - d. Moss H. Kendrix: Reframing the Black Image, Alexandria Black History Museum  
This exhibition debuts the works of African American public relations pioneer Moss Kendrix. In the late 1940s he promoted a new approach in marketing – appealing to African American consumers with positive and aspirational advertising campaigns featuring African American models and stars. This exhibition is supported by an IMLS grant.
- Exterior rehabilitation of the Freedom House Museum has started. Scaffolding on the south and west elevations should be installed by mid-July. The museum is open during this renovation work.

#### **Public Comment**

- No members of the public attended the meeting.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next meeting will take place on August 20, 2024, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Whitney Umarov, OHA  
Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary