

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

PRESENT: (11 for quorum)

Donna DeBlasio

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Shawn Eyer

Mark Farkas

David Kovalik

Corrine Marasco

Mia Mulrennan

Deborah Osborne

John Patrick

Rebecca Rose

Gail Rothrock

Lisa Schumaier

Roberta Stevens

Steve Stuart

Ivy Whitlatch

REMOTE:

EXCUSED:

Bailee Barfield

Laura Lieberman

Barbara Marvin

Tim Rose

Russell Simonaro

ABSENT:

Tom Schultz

GUESTS:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA Staff

Bill Conkey, BAR Staff, Planning and Zoning

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 August 20, 2024:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by John Patrick. The August 20, 2024 minutes were approved.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Excused Absence

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- 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

- Reporting for the Lee-Fendall House Museum: Jazz Under the Stars is planned for October 19. All are welcome to attend, and admission can be purchased at LeeFendallHouse.org.
- Reporting for the Memorial: a fundraising campaign is being launched to support the library, which was closed for two decades, and for its staffing needs. The library's collection focuses on freemasonry and George Washington.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- The restoration of the Archives and Records Center is nearing completion.
- The Commission continues to work on making the City's public records more accessible.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 3

- No Report

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Excused Absence

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Workshop

- Introduced herself. She represents St. Paul's Church.

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- Mentioned the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's 1824 Visit.

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

- The Commission is researching funding to support the easement program.
- She announced that this is her final HARC meeting and that she will assist with identifying a new HARC representative.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Invited by a group to speak about Rosemont, he asked for assistance with finding photographs and map resources.

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society

- Golden Grants in honor of the Historical Society's 50th anniversary are being offered and applications are due October 6th.
- The Society's September 25th lecture on Alexandria's Civil War Prisons is scheduled at 7 p.m. at The Lyceum.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- Excused Absence

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- HAF's annual fundraiser, the Toast of the Town, is planned for Saturday, November 23rd at the Athenaeum.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Absent

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

- The Torpedo Factory celebrated its 50th anniversary as an Arts Center. The gala featured founder Marian Van Landingham and a special poem by Zeina Azzam, the City's poet laureate.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Excused Absence

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The Association’s first program of their 2024-2025 membership year will be held on November 18. The subject is the commemoration of William Pitt the Elder in Fine and Decorative Arts. Refreshments are served at 7 p.m. followed by the lecture at 7:30 p.m.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Working on a recognition for the 50th anniversary of the AAC.
- Submitted a letter to the editor of the Gazette about the history of the Torpedo Factory and its connection with the founding of Alexandria Archaeology.

New Business:

Old Business:

- The City Hall Renovation’s [community meetings](#) begin September 19. HARC members are planning to attend.
- HARC’s FY24 Annual Report draft was circulated for consideration. The Chair asked for edits to be emailed to him. The report is due September 30th.
- Section 106 for Waterfront Implementation Project: Alexandria’s Department of Project Implementation has been invited to either the October or November meeting for a presentation that will also include the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.
- Housing Master Plan meetings will be held on September 18 (virtually) and September 25 (in person). Registration is suggested and can be made at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/HousingPlan>.

Standing Committee Reports:

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

- The documentary on Alexandria’s lynching history has been completed and a film debut is planned for September 21 at the Masonic Memorial at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 and available through the Office of Historic Alexandria website. The tickets support the work of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.
- Watch the trailer which has been posted to YouTube.

Advocacy – Gail Rothrock and Donna DeBlasio, Co-Chairs

- Meeting held on September 3.
- Coalition for a Livable Alexandria’s Amended Complaint for Declaratory Relief against the city: On August 25, 2024, Judge Schell rejected the city’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit. He ruled that the individual plaintiffs have standing in the lawsuit challenging Alexandria’s Zoning for Housing ordinance, although he concurred with the city that the Coalition lacked standing because it does not own property—that action, however, did

not affect the case. The Coalition will continue to spearhead funding efforts to ensure that plaintiffs in the suit are not burdened with legal fees.

- Jones Point Lighthouse: With concerns over the condition of the lighthouse, Carol Black contacted representatives from the National Park Service. They talked about its preservation and maintenance issues.
- The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 1. Everyone is invited.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- No Report

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

Planning and Zoning reconfiguration:

- The Department of Planning and Zoning is being slightly reorganized. A division of Transportation & Environmental Services and a division of the Office of Housing are joining the department at the order of the City Manager. The goal is to streamline the development approval process by having most of the reviewing groups under one division.

Robinson Terminal North:

- This summer the BAR held the final concept review for the proposed Robinson Terminal North project. This will be a two-building complex on North Union Street that features a mixture of residential and commercial uses including a restaurant on the east side of the east building facing the riverfront promenade. The site is not within the boundaries of the historic district, but as a part of the waterfront plan, the project goes through the BAR Concept Review process. A final Certificate of Appropriateness will not be required.

Design Guidelines Update:

- As mentioned before, the Design Guidelines Committee has been hard at work updating the Design Guidelines which were originally written in 1993. This coming Wednesday the Board will be considering the Windows Chapter. This is one of the most used and complicated chapters and covers the repair of historic windows and the installation of appropriate new windows where applicable.

BAR Annual Report:

- The BAR FY24 Annual Report was finalized on August 31st. At the 23 public hearings, the BAR approved 104 cases in the Old and Historic District (OHAD) and 7 in Parker Gray (PG). Historic Preservation staff administratively approved 245 cases in OHAD and 42 in PG. The BAR also held 6 concept reviews. Of the 4 cases appealed to City Council, Council upheld 3 BAR decisions (windows at 1025 King, 301 N. Fairfax development, 613 S. Royal after the fact painting – must paint all visible sides, not just the front) and overturned 1 (720 King, deny after fact painting).

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- OHA has received a preservation award from Preservation Virginia for the exterior restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. The nomination was submitted by the Dr. Dick Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. <https://preservationvirginia.org/our-work/historic-preservation-awards/>
- The Freedom House exterior restoration is making progress, with the roof work and chimney rehabilitation beginning this week.
- The historic 1851 Rodgers Pumper was returned after two years of conservation to Friendship Firehouse on Saturday as part of the Veterans Association 250th anniversary Muster. It was on display outside the firehouse from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. and then it was moved into the firehouse with support from the Fire Department.
- Tickets are now on sale for the events planned for the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's 1824 visit to Alexandria. Events include walking tours, a marker dedication, a book talk and an interpretive dinner. A delegation from Caen, Alexandria's sister city, will be joining us for these events.
- The annual Alexandria Cider Festival will take place at the Lloyd House on November 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. We are always looking for volunteers and ways to increase our ticket sales!

Public Comment

- No members of the public attended the meeting.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on October 15, 2024, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary