

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

PRESENT: (12 for quorum)

Carol Black
Christopher Brownlowe
Donna DeBlasio
Shawn Eyer
Mark Farkas
David Kovalik
Corrine Marasco
Mia Mulrennan
John Patrick
Rebecca Rose
Tim Rose
Gail Rothrock
Lisa Schumaier
Roberta Stevens
Rebecca Super
Ivy Whitlatch

REMOTE:

EXCUSED:

Bailee Barfield
Laura Lieberman
Barbara Marvin
Nigel Mease
Russell Simonaro
Steve Stuart

ABSENT:

Tom Schultz

GUESTS:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA Staff
William Conkey, Planning and Zoning Historic Preservation Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shawn Eyer at 7:05 p.m. after a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes for October 15, 2024:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna DeBlasio and seconded by John Patrick. The October 15, 2024 minutes were approved.

Chairs Update:

- Shawn Eyer reported that HARC received a certified letter from Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. regarding the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Heritage development at 900 Wolfe Street and 450 and 510 South Patrick Street as well as 901 Gibbon Stret. HARC is invited to comment on the Project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) as a consulting party.
- A motion was made by Tim Rose to participate as a consulting party and seconded by Ivy Whitlatch. Discussion included participating to suggest mitigation and historic interpretation ideas. The motion passed. Tim Rose, along with Carol Black, offered to serve as the HARC contacts for the project.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Excused Absence

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- No Report

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- On November 7 the Athenaeum partnered with the Alexandria Film Festival to host the opening reception of the 2024 Alexandria Film Festival. The Mayor was in attendance and declared November "Alexandria Film Appreciation Month."
- November 6 was the NVFAA annual meeting. The annual report is available on their website.
- December 8 will be the NVFAA's annual member appreciation party. Members are invited to stop by between 12-4 p.m. for appetizers and light refreshments.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- For the Lee-Fendall House, Shawn reported that the garden wall “saga” had been resolved. To address the 1785 wall that toppled over more than three years ago, part of the historic fabric was reinforced and the remaining section rebuilt.
- December’s programming celebrates a variety of Victorian programs that are listed on LeeFendall.org.
- For the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Shawn reported that fundraising continues to reopen the library and an exhibition featuring George Washington’s 1792 family Bible.
- The Masonic National Memorial’s large statue of Washington, originally dedicated on February 22, 1950, with a short speech by President Harry Truman, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on February 22, 2025. Tickets will be available for the special event.

Mark Farkus – Planning District 3

- No Report

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- The elevator at the Archives and Records Center is nearing completion.
- The Archives and Records staff is working with City staff in City Hall on records transfers as part of the City Hall renovation and staff relocation to swing space.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Excused Absence

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- Excused Absence

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Nigel Mease – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (AHRPC)

- Excused Absence

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Members of HARC were thanked for their recommendations on resources for Rosemont’s history.

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- On December 10th at 7 p.m., the 50th anniversary of AHS will be recognized by the City Council. They also plan to announce the Golden Grant awardees at that time.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- HAF’s annual Toast of the Town fundraiser is planned for Saturday, November 23rd at the Athenaeum, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Absent

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

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Excused Absence

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The Association’s January 20 program will feature Shawn Eyer’s presentation “Lee Fendall House Structural Survey: A Lesson in Historic Preservation.” The Alexandria Association contributed \$40,000 for the survey’s cost.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- Excused Absence

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Introduced herself as a new member to HARC.
- The Carlyle House is hosting wonderful holiday programs this season and tickets are available through the website.
- They are excited to report that the Carlyle House will have newly renovated restrooms in January.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- The AAC will hold an event on January 31, 2025, at the Torpedo Factory to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Commissioners are working on national recognition.
- Members are working on a Historic Register nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemetery complex.

New Business:

- The chair appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of three members: Steve Stuart, Carol Black and Gail Rothrock. Elections will be held at the December meeting.
- The December meeting location will change to City Hall Room 1900.
- Carol Black brought to HARC's attention an issue in Del Ray regarding 404A East Alexandria Avenue. The Planning Commission voted against the project plan last year. It was re-introduced with modifications this year and approved by the Planning Commission. The City Council voted to oppose the alterations, which included building on a substandard lot with the intention of short-term rentals).
- Gail Rothrock reported from the Waterfront Commission meeting that there is a public meeting about the waterfront implementation plan on Monday, November 25th, 7 to 9 p.m., via zoom.

Old Business:

- Jones Point Lighthouse Update:
 - A letter was sent from HARC to the Mayor, City Manager and members of the City Council. The Mayor has reached out to Christine Smith, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway.
- The City Hall Renovation:
 - The City's Web page has a list of community meetings, the project timeline and an online survey: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/CityHall>
 - Commissioners shared that they attended meetings and contributed to the conversation.
 - A question was asked about parking alternatives during the Market Square Garage renovation. Discussion also included the pilot project to close the 200 block of King Street, a total of 17 spaces, from November 22 to January 6.
- Section 106 for Waterfront Implementation Project: Alexandria's Department of Project Implementation will look into attending a winter meeting for a presentation that will also include the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.

Standing Committee Reports:

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

- The documentary on Alexandria's lynching history was shown as a part of the Alexandria Film Festival.
- The committee is holding a January retreat to plan for the next two years.

Advocacy – Gail Rothrock and Donna DeBlasio, Co-Chairs

- Future meetings of the committee will be held only when there is an item they need to address.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- It was suggested the committee prepare a briefing book for new City Council members.

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

- 201 Gibbon Street Appeal

In October the BAR denied the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of two historic windows on the south elevation. The case was deferred on two previous occasions to allow for further research into the history of the windows and for the BAR to discuss their window replacement policy. The applicants have appealed the denial, and it will be heard by the City Council at their December 14 Public Hearing.

- 1007 Oronoco Street

The Planning Commission recently approved the subdivision of the existing lot at 1007 Oronoco Street into three separate lots. The property owner is planning on adding an addition to the existing historic building on the center of the three lots and building new homes on either side of the existing house. Because of the location of the historic district boundary, the existing house and the new structure on the lot to the east fall under the purview of the BAR while the new structure to the west does not. The design is expected to go to the BAR in December.

- 10 Duke Street

Construction on the re-built building at 10 Duke Street is nearing completion. According to the building's owner, they expect to be finished with construction before the end of the year and hope to open the ground floor restaurant as soon as possible. This structure was disassembled and rebuilt using the original materials in order to address ground water concerns.

- 615-621 King Street

These are the two buildings in the 700 block of King Street where Walgreens and Burke and Herbert were previously located. In April 2023, the BAR approved the renovation of these two buildings into a single multi-unit residential building. The ground floor of the building will be retail and the exterior will be restored to be similar to their original configuration. The owner has begun to prepare the site and construction is expected to begin in January.

OHA Report: Gretchen Bulova

- 2024 is wrapping up as a successful year of projects and events related to the City's 275th anniversary, 200th anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves, and 200th anniversary of Lafayette's Grand Tour.
- A delegation from Helsingborg, Sweden as well as Caen, France was welcomed. The Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee, Scotland are joining us for the Scottish Walk weekend in December.
- A virtual public presentation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House is planned for January 2025.

- A new ridge beam to support the reconstruction of the c. 1812-1870s roof was installed, using a crane and closing Duke Street for a few hours. Cameras have been installed to document the new roof construction.

Public Comment

- No members of the public attended the meeting.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on December 17, 2024, in room 1900 of City Hall (301 King Street). A holiday social time takes place 6:30 to 7 p.m. Members are encouraged to use the emailed Sign Up Genius to record their contribution.

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