

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

PRESENT: (12 for quorum)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Mark Farkas

David Kovalik

Laura Lieberman

Corrine Marasco

Barbara Marvin

Nigel Mease

Mia Mulrennan

John Patrick

Rebecca Rose

Gail Rothrock

Lisa Schumaier

Roberta Stevens

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Ivy Whitlatch

VIRTUAL:

Tim Rose

EXCUSED:

Rebecca Super

ABSENT:

Bailee Barfield

Tom Schultz

PUBLIC:

CITY STAFF: Gretchen Bulova, OHA Staff
Bill Conkey, BAR Staff
Daphne Kott, DPI Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENTATION:

Daphne Kott of Alexandria's Department of Project Implementation provided an update from the National Park Service (NPS) on the Jones Point Lighthouse and Washington Sailing Marina Restrooms. Ms. Kott shared that funds are being transferred from another NPS project to support these two priorities.

The scope of work for the Jones Point Lighthouse includes replacing the cedar roof shingles, repairing flashing and the gutter system, repointing the chimney and removing paint and repairing the foundation, replacing south exterior stairs, and painting the structure. The wood elements of the well structure and the broken glass over the boundary stone will be repaired, the picket fence repaired and painted, the site regraded, and the path to the lighthouse improved. The approximately \$1.1 million project requires approval from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and an environmental review.

Ms. Kott requested a letter of support from HARC to the City Council for the project's implementation. HARC's letter to Mayor Wilson was important to bringing attention to the condition of the Jones Point Lighthouse and the allocation of funding for its repair.

Separately, \$1 million has been set aside to rebuild the comfort station at the Marina.

Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The January 21, 2025 minutes were approved.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Absent

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- The Old Presbyterian Meeting House has begun the process of removing a pulpit that had been originally donated by the Alexandria Association.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- This weekend is the close of their annual sculpture show.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mark Farkas – Planning District 3

- Excused Absence

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- No Report

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- A great month of activities, included a new photography exhibit and a program on historical fashion. Their March programs include Civil War and Women's History topics. It isn't too early to plan for the April 20th Easter Egg Hunt!

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

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

- No Report

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No Report

Rebecca Rose – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- The AHS Annual History Award nominations are due this Friday, February 21st.
- A special zoom presentation with Elizabeth Reese is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- No Report

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Absent

Lisa Schumaier

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- A lecture on The Hammond Harwood House: An 18th Century Jewel is scheduled for March 17th.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Excused Absence

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- The AAC will receive a proclamation from the City for its 50th anniversary on February 25th during the City Council meeting.
- The AAC held a successful event on January 31st at the Torpedo Factory to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Volunteer of the year was given to Ralph Rosenbaum. The AAC was presented with a joint resolution from the Virginia Assembly by Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

New Business:

Jones Point Lighthouse Update:

- Following up on the presentation by Daphne Kott, a motion was made to write a letter to City Council to authorize the necessary maintenance for the Jones Point Lighthouse by John Patrick and seconded by Gail Rothrock. The motion passed. Carol Black agreed to write the letter with support from Barbara Marvin and John Patrick.

Comprehensive Plan for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House

- A public presentation by Glave and Holmes is scheduled for Monday, February 25th from 6 to 7 p.m. at The Lyceum. Members of HARC are invited to attend in person with refreshments served at 5:30 p.m.

Interpretation of the “Boat Building” Theme at Waterfront Park

- Following up on the January presentation by Matt Landes on the Waterfront Flood Mitigation, members of the AAC plan to send a letter to him noting an important correction to the plan about the history of boat building. The letter expresses the importance of including Historic Alexandria in the interpretation planning of the waterfront.

Old Business:

Outreach to new Council Members

- No update

Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project

- No update

City Hall Renovation:

- A new round of public outreach opportunities were announced.

Section 106 for the Heritage Project:

- Ivy Whitlatch offered to circulate information on Section 106 and how it works.

Standing Committee Reports:

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

- Mark, for the benefit of the new members of HARC, gave a brief overview of ACRP.
- On March 10th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., a presentation on “Confronting Whiteness” led by Rev. Ben Boswell will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It is open to the public.

OHA Support – Steve Stuart

- No report

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

- BAR Officer Elections

In January, the Board held its first hearing with the new Board Chair. After serving three terms as Chairman, James Spencer was replaced by Andy Scott. Andy is a lawyer with the U.S. Senate and lives in the north end of the Old and Historic District.

- King Street Taco Bell

Tomorrow night the BAR will hear an application from Taco Bell asking for approval of a pick-up window adjacent to the entry doors. Staff is recommending approval of the application with the condition that the color of the metal surround be more compatible with the other nearby signage.

- 125 South Pitt Street

The owners of the house at 125 South Pitt Street are requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for an addition at the rear of the house. The addition will be located on the north side of the building and will be visible from South Pitt Street. Alexandria Archaeology has noted the potential for discoveries during the proposed excavation and staff is requesting that the owners allow City staff to observe the work as it progresses.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Gretchen Bulova

- The City’s FY26 budget will be formally released at the February 25th City Council meeting. Public input sessions will be advertised.
- OHA is participating in the Virginia Association of Museum’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts program. was selected to be a part of the competition, with a chance to win up to \$1,000 in conservation funding. This year’s object is a silk Patriotic Convention Ribbon from the Soldiers and Sailors Convention (Pittsburgh, 1872) supporting the candidacy of U.S. Grant. This fragile ribbon was collected by Lewis Cass White who

was devoted to preserving and memorializing Fort Stevens and the Civil War defenses around Washington, DC.

- Repairs are in progress to restore the Historic Ballroom and one office at Gadsby's Tavern Museum that suffered extensive water damage from a burst pipe in January.
- The Freedom House restoration continues, with an emphasis on the new roof and restored windows on the second floor.
- Black History Month events have been very well attended, with Sunday's concert at The Lyceum welcoming 150 participants! A film in partnership with the Alexandria Film Festival is being held this upcoming Friday, February 21st, and staff have created some fun social media posts to attract additional attention to the Alexandria Black History Museum.
- Despite the rain on Saturday, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee held a fantastic parade that was well attended. Saturday's annual Birthnight Banquet Celebration was sold out and included a period-inspired dinner, historical content by George Mason University Professor of History Emeritus Peter Henriques, as well as remarks by General George Washington.
- Spring2Action – This year's event will take place on April 9th and support the interior accessibility of Freedom House.
- A fundraising event for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House to celebrate Joe Reeder's 98th birthday is planned for Sunday, May 4th.

Public Comment

- None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is planned for March 18, 2025 at the Lloyd House.

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