

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

PRESENT: (10 for quorum)

Christopher Brownlowe

David Kovalik

Corrine Marasco

Nigel Mease

Mia Mulrennan

John Patrick

Gail Rothrock

Roberta Stevens

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Rebecca Super

Ivy Whitlatch

VIRTUAL:

EXCUSED:

Carol Black

Donna DeBlasio

Laura Lieberman

Barbara Marvin

Michael Pope

Tim Rose

Lisa Schumaier

ABSENT:

PUBLIC:

Robert Ray

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA Staff

Bill Conkey, BAR Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes May 20, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by John Patrick. The May 20, 2025, minutes were approved with a correction to Russell Simonaro's report. His changed report now says, "Spoke to Councilman John Chapman to name a portion of the new Alexandria Hospital after Dr. Albert Johnson."

Commissioner Updates:

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- Excused Absence

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- NVFAA is holding a free Juneteenth event from 6 to 8 p.m., with poetry, musicians, and marketplace vendors. Information is available on the nvafaa.org website for July's events.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- Excused Absence

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- A farewell party for the City's Archivist (Jackie Cohan) and Records Manager (Annette Morris) will be held on Friday, June 20, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- 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)

- AHRPC is organizing easements in the City Sharepoint system.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No Report

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society

- Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m., there will be a lecture about Theater in Colonial Virginia at The Lyceum. Speakers Deborah Payne of American University and Drew Lichtenberg of the Shakespeare Theatre Company will take center stage to discuss the influence of Shakespeare in the New World. The doors open at 6:30 pm. and the event is free for members and \$5 for non-members.
- Sunday, June 29, at 2 p.m., a walking tour, Uncovering the LGBTQ+ History of Alexandria will highlight the first gay bar in Northern Virginia, then known as the French Quarter Cafe (now Don Taco). The tour starts at the Torpedo Factory and the cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Details and tickets are on the Historical Society's website.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- Excused Absence

Gail Rothrock – The Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- The annual HAF Garden Party was held on June 15, with awards to OHA (\$9,000 Colored Rosemont research), Tall Ship Providence (\$10,000 ship repairs), Lee Fendall House (\$6,000 wallpaper restoration), Elks Lodge (\$6,800 plaster repair), Masonic Memorial (\$7,500 restoring George Washington's 1792 bible), and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (\$5,000 for an Alexandria City High School senior studying historic preservation).
- Preservation Awards were presented to 609 Oronoco Street and Cooper Mill 10 Duke Street.

Lisa Schumaier

- Excused Absence

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Russell noted that 810 Prince Street is on the market.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The May lecture wrapped up programs for the 2024-2025 membership year.
- The Association is working on speakers for the 2025-2026 lecture series.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- The Carlyle House is wrapping up the fiscal year and celebrating a successful year.

- The historic building will be undergoing restoration in 2026 with scaffolding starting to go up in July.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- The Waterfront Section 106 meeting was offered online and in-person.
- Three Commissioners are doing the best they can to protect archaeological resources.
- Archaeology Summer Camp for teens will be wrapping up on June 27. Between 3 and 3:45 p.m., the students will be holding a final presentation and describing their excavation square.
- On June 21 a Juneteenth event will be held at Douglass Cemetery.
- AAC will be touring Ivy Hill Cemetery at 6:30 p.m. on June 18 to learn about their experience in obtaining a National Historical Place designation.
- Archaeology staff participated in the New York State Museum installation of the ship discovered under the World Trade Center. The museum is building a cradle for its hull.
- The AAC received the Commission of the Year Award, which will be received at the June 24 Council Meeting.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- Summer Meeting Schedule – A motion was made by John Patrick and seconded by Roberta Stevens to take the August HARC meeting off the schedule this year. The motion carried.
- Waterfront Pump Station – Members of the Archaeology staff and Archaeology Commission attended the Section 106 presentation.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- Attended the first meeting on June 11 at the Alexandria Black History Museum. The discussion included sponsorship for the Remembrance Students Club at Alexandria City High School to participate in three days of immersive learning about Alexandria's African American community history.
- The August 8th Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas is being planned and will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church with special guest speaker Steven Hahn (historian and Pulitzer Prize winner) at 6:30 p.m.
- A Faith Leaders affirmation statement was presented to the City Council on June 14.

City Hall and Market Square Redesign – John Patrick, Gail Rothrock

- Four concerns about the current design were discussed, specifically, 1) the amount of glass on the walls of the new 5th floor structure that can still be seen above the Victorian northern roof line from the intersection of Cameron and North Royal Streets and possibly also from the intersection of Cameron and North Fairfax Streets; 2) the plainness and lack of visible support for the proposed masonry-clad beams that seem to hover incongruently

above the ground-floor arcade on the 1963 Market Square elevation; 3) the proposal to light the glass hyphens at each end of the 1963 insert from the inside to illuminate the newly exposed walls of the Victorian Structure, but which will instead draw attention to the incongruent metal staircases within the building; and 4) the size of the viewing terrace on the roof. John Patrick said that skylights could provide an alternative to glass walls for lighting the northern portions of the proposed 5th floor structure's interior. He also said that it would be more visually plausible to make the supports for the beam above the south arcade clearly visible and clad them in the same material, and that exterior lighting of the Victorian walls would be more effective than attempting to light them from the interior of the glass hyphens.

- John offered to present the first three of the concerns listed above to the June 18 BAR meeting on behalf of HARC, along with his suggested solution for each concern. A motion was made by Gail Rothrock and seconded by John Patrick to authorize John to make that presentation. The motion carried.

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

Design Guidelines

- The BAR Design Guidelines Committee met last week to continue the update to the 1993 Design Guidelines. As Bill previously mentioned, the committee has been focusing on updating chapters for the Parker Gray District. Now that a significant batch of those chapters is done, they are ready to apply those to the Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD). The first batch of new OHAD Guidelines will be taken to the Board in July.

Waterfront Park

- At the last BAR hearing, the Board heard a Concept Review for the design of Waterfront Park, the Pump Station, and the pedestrianization of the first two blocks of King Street. Board members generally supported the design for Waterfront Park and for King Street with some minor comments. There was significant discussion regarding the design for the Pump Station with Board Members providing feedback on the proposed design and location.

910 King Street

- The renovation of the building at 910 King Street returns to the Board for their review tomorrow evening. The renovation includes modifications to the building and the construction of a roof deck. The Board made significant comments regarding the proposed design at the previous hearing and the applicant requested a deferral from the Board to address these concerns. The revised design addresses some of these comments but there are others which remain unresolved.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Gretchen Bulova

Historic Alexandria's TOP 10 Accomplishments of FY2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- Received the 2025 Preservation Virginia Award for the exterior restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House (517 Prince Street).
- Nearing completion of the exterior renovation of the Freedom House Museum, including the rehabilitation of the front façade to its pre-1861 appearance. This project was fully

funded through grants and donations. Oak Grove Construction began the project in June 2024 and the work will be completed in July 2025.

- Completed the Comprehensive Plan for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House in partnership with Glave & Holmes Architecture. This plan will serve as the road map for the conversion of the site from a residence to a museum once the life tenancy for Joe Reeder concludes. The plan was funded through donations.
- Established a separate 501(c) (3) foundation to support OHA - the Foundation for Alexandria History and Museums, Inc.
- As part of the America250 and VA250 initiatives, commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves was celebrated with more than 400 people in attendance. Collaboration partners included George Mason's Gunston Hall, George Washington's Mount Vernon, NOVA Parks, and the Sons of the Revolution (Fairfax Resolves Chapter). Additional collaborations of the commemoration included a "Road to Revolution" interpretive marker, a souvenir pocket-size Fairfax Resolves, a lecture at Gunston Hall, and a symposium at Mount Vernon.
- Commemorated the 200th anniversary of the marquis de Lafayette's Grand Tour in 1824/1825 with events at the Lafayette House and Gadsby's Tavern Museum, walking tours, a lecture filmed by CSPAN, and a commemorative interpretive marker.
- Commemorated the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery, in collaboration with a descendant committee. The three-day event included tours of Alexandria African American churches, a luncheon with a keynote speaker, oral history story circles, and a candlelit vigil at the cemetery.
- Published the *Alexandria Historical Sign Finder: History around the City* on the City's website to help residents, researchers, and City staff easily locate historic markers throughout the City of Alexandria. This interactive map was designed in partnership with the City's GIS Department.
- Highlighted and ensured the proper documentation of the Alexandria Canal at 901 N. Pitt Street. Worked closely with DPI, TES, and the developer to salvage and store the canal structural stones for future use in Waterfront Park and future flood mitigation infrastructure. More than 500 residents and visitors attended the snowy January public viewing day of the excavated canal.
- Initiated a regular Historic Alexandria social media video series to showcase Alexandria's history and expand OHA's interpretation and reach.

Public Comment

- Robert Ray introduced himself. He is the Chair of the Alexandria Public Library Board and is on the boards of the Old Town Civic Association and the Alexandria Association.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is planned for July 15, 2025, at the Lloyd House.

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