

# **HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Lloyd House**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

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### **PRESENT: (10 for quorum)**

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

David Kovalik

Barbara Marvin

Nigel Mease

Mia Mulrennan

John Patrick

Michael Pope

Gail Rothrock

Lisa Schumaier

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Ivy Whitlatch

### **VIRTUAL:**

Carol Black

### **EXCUSED:**

Laura Lieberman

Corrine Marasco

Roberta Stevens

Rebecca Super

### **ABSENT:**

### **PUBLIC:**

### **CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA Staff

Bill Conkey, BAR Staff

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**Approval of Minutes June 17, 2025:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The June 17, 2025, minutes were approved.

**Commissioner Updates:**

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- No Report.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- No Report.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Sean Ferguson, formerly on HARC and PRAC, was hired on June 23, 2025, as the new City of Alexandria Records Administrator and Archivist. Jackie Cohan formally retired on June 30<sup>th</sup> after 27 years as the Records Administrator and Archivist.
- Recruitment is in progress to fill the Records Manager position, held by Annette Morris for 43 years. She retired on June 30<sup>th</sup> as well.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Excused Absence.

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- Excused Absence.

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No Report.

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report.

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

- AHRPC continues to digitize easements.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No Report.

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society

- Michael is now President of AHS.
- Upcoming events include a September 24 lecture by local historian Krystyn Moon, featuring her new book on racial covenants; October 22 panel discussion of Golden Grants awardees.
- AHS will be offering Golden Grants again this year.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- Resigned as of July 14, 2025.

Gail Rothrock – The Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- No Report.

Lisa Schumaier

- Provided a short update on the Request for Qualifications (RFQU) process at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, to provide new management.
- Visitation remains strong.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Promoted the Historic Alexandria 2025 Ornament featuring the Alexandria Canal. The ornaments are on sale now at all OHA's museum shops.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Excused absence.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report.

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Excused absence.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Sent out invitations to the owners of the 13 Wilkes Street Cemeteries to begin meeting to develop a coordinated National Register Nomination.
- The AAC received the Commission of the Year Award at the June 24 Council Meeting.
- AAC is soliciting nominations for the 2025 Ben Brenman Award and Del Pepper Award, to be given out in October. Both awards are to recognize individuals or organizations in the fields of archaeology or preservation.

### **New Business:**

- Annual Report – The Commission’s annual report is due to City Council by September 30<sup>th</sup> and will be drafted by Christopher Brownlowe for review at the September HARC meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- Waterfront Pump Station – No Update.
- Jones Point Lighthouse – The amendment to the Net Benefits Agreement was fully executed by the City on June 9. A copy of the agreement was provided to the National Park Service (NPS). NPS representatives stated they would keep the City in the loop on the project status.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- The August 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

- The BAR meeting with the concept review was held. The City is reluctant to make substantial changes to the glass on the upper levels. Changes were made by the designers to the Market Square entrance, including Federal Period architectural elements and motifs. Still interested in understanding the interior lighting in the glass stairwells located in the hyphens.
- The City is beginning a new survey, number 5, to engage the public about the interpretation of City Hall and Market Square.
- On the City’s website, you can find where City Hall offices will be relocated.  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/CityHall>

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

#### 910 King Street

- At the last BAR hearing, the Board considered the proposed improvements to 910 King Street after accepting a request for deferral from the applicant at the first hearing. After discussing the design revisions, Board members were not supportive of the modifications and the applicant again asked for a deferral in order to further modify the design. The case will be returning to the Board for a third time tomorrow evening with a simplified proposal. In this submission, the applicant is only requesting a C of A for the proposed roof deck with a glass railing and to infill three windows on the west elevation.

#### 802-808 N Washington Street

- The developer for the proposed multi-unit development at 802-808 N Washington Street will be returning to the Board for a Certificate of Appropriateness at the BAR hearing tomorrow evening. This is the site of the previously approved hotel where construction was stopped just as the below grade parking garage was being finished. A new developer has purchased the property and will be converting the project to a multi-unit residential

development. The applicant has revised the design based on comments from the Board at a previous hearing.

426 South Lee Street

- The owner of 426 South Lee Street is proposing to build a one-story addition at the rear of their house. The addition is simple in design and will be visible from the nearby Windmill Hill Park.

Updates to the design guidelines for the Parker Gray District will also be submitted to the BAR at tomorrow night's meeting. The changes are not policy related.

### **Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Gretchen Bulova**

July is the beginning of the FY2026 year and the following projects are priorities for OHA:

- Freedom House Exterior Rehabilitation (Complete)
- Freedom House Interior Fundraising
- Douglass Cemetery storm water mitigation, with a public meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House
- Fort Ward Exhibit on the Fort Community
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project initiatives
- Growing the Oral History Program
- America250 Initiative
  - Sails on the Potomac, June 12-14, 2026, Tall Ship Event
  - Alexandria250 Programs, Alexandria-wide collaboration
  - Four new exhibits (Lyceum, Gadsby's, Apothecary, and Fort Ward)
  - New Historic Alexandria Guidebook
  - 250<sup>th</sup> Interpretive marker
  - LOTS OF FUNDRAISING!

### **Public Comment**

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is planned for September 16, 2025, at the Lloyd House. There will not be an August Commission meeting.

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