

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

PRESENT: (10 for quorum)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Stanley Tyler Hale

David Kovalik

Nigel Mease

Corrine Marasco

Mia Mulrennan

John Patrick

Michael Pope

Lisa Schumaier

Steve Stuart

Ivy Whitlatch

VIRTUAL:

EXCUSED:

Laura Lieberman

Gail Rothrock

Russell Simonaro

Roberta Stevens

Rebecca Super

ABSENT:

PUBLIC: Robert Ray

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA 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 October 21, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna DeBlasio and seconded by John Patrick. The October 21, 2025, minutes were approved.

Commissioner Updates:

Carol Black – Planning District 2

- Attended the Del Ray Citizen Association meeting and reported on the City Hall restoration.
- Participated in the OHA Social Impact Survey sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums and shared results from the final presentation by Liz Williams.
- Attended the Zoning for Housing Hearing. Recommended having a future presentation from someone in the City's planning department.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- HAF will be hosting their annual gala event this Saturday, November 22nd.
- NVFAA is hosting their annual member appreciation event on December 7th. All are welcome.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- Attended the ribbon cutting for Freedom House on November 8th.

Tyler Hale – Civic Association Representative

- Tyler introduced himself and shared his interest in history, historic houses, and decorative arts.
- Looking forward to participating in HARC's work.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- No Report.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Excused Absence.

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report.

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

- The Commission is working on easement inspections.
- City Finance Staff attended the meeting to talk about how tax benefits are determined for easements.

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Rod Kukro continues to work on his proposal to establish a historic district for the Town of Potomac.
- Rosemont Citizen's Association is using Del Ray's pattern book, with their permission, to develop their own Rosemont pattern book to encourage developers to build in a style that is compatible with the neighborhood.

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society

- Friday, November 21, AHS is hosting a watch party with WETA to debut the Ken Burns Revolution War documentary. The panel discussion is at 7 p.m., with the screening at 8 p.m.

Gail Rothrock – The Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Excused Absence.

Lisa Schumaier

- City will be issuing an RFP to manage the Torpedo Factory. In the past, they issued a request for information (RFI) and received three responses.
- Holiday open house on Friday, December 12th. All are welcome.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Excused Absence.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Upcoming lectures:
 - January 19: Andrea Tracy, *Diplomatic Treasures Abroad*
 - February 16: Carol Cadou, *Celebrating America250: Preserving a Future for our Nation's Past*
 - March 16: Jeffrey Ricketts, *The Antiques and Architecture of Brick Meeting House, Maryland, 1700-1870*

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report.

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Carlyle House will be hosting their annual Scottish Walk Open House on Dec 6th from 10 am-2 pm. Admission is free.

- On Dec 13, hosting a holiday concert featuring Alexandria Baroque at 2 pm. Admission is \$12 per person.
- Carlyle House will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but open for tours to entertain your out of town guests starting at 10 am on Friday.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Oct 28, AAC presented this year's Ben Brenman's Award to Carr Properties for their work on preserving the canal and especially the canal stones.
- The Wilkes Street Cemetery owners walked the cemeteries on November 2 to learn more about the individual needs and vision for the cemeteries. The goal is to complete the report by May for the June DHR meeting.

New Business:

- New Commissioner Stanley (Tyler) Hale, representing Civil Associations, introduced himself
- Nominating Committee, led Steve Stuart, proposed the slate of officers for the 2026 calendar year: Christopher Brownlowe as Chair, Donna DeBlasio as Vice Chair, and Roberta Stevens as Secretary. Elections will be held at the December meeting.
- The December meeting will include the annual HARC Holiday Party, with members bringing food items to share. This will take place in the first hour and the regular business meeting will start at 8 p.m.

Old Business:

- Eisenhower Apartment Building –
 - No updates since the last HARC meeting. Will continue to monitor.
- Waterfront Pump Station –
 - A third alternative is being proposed that involves a “split station” with a smaller building in the park and the pump station located in the 1 Prince Street Building. This would decrease the footprint of the building in Waterfront Park.
 - There is discussion about a Maritime Museum (private organization) going in to 1 Prince Street as well.
 - In this scenario, the 1 Prince Street Building would need to be purchased by the City (or a shared purchase) for this work to move forward.
- Jones Point Lighthouse –
 - No updates due to the Government Shutdown.
 - An article will be appearing in the Alexandria Times about the Lighthouse and its need for restoration.
- Heritage, Section 106 consulting party –
 - No updates on the enforcement of the destroyed archaeological features.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- The Remembrance Students with the Alexandria City High School toured Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Freedom House Museum on Nov 1 as part of a three-part series to learn more about Alexandria's African American History.

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

- John Patrick spoke about the last three issues once again at the BAR hearing – the amount of glass in the hyphen, lit staircases, and new entrance on Market Square side.
- Written comments to the BAR will be considered, though the public comment period is officially over.
- Carol Black attended the BAR meeting and learned about plans for a fifth-floor roof top terrace as well as shade structures on Market Square. They do not compliment the design of the original buildings.
- John Patrick made a motion to send a statement to the BAR with HARC's concerns, seconded by Carol Black. The statement will include: concerns about the appropriateness of the fifth-floor roof top terrace, the amount of glass and chrome on the hyphens, preserving and enhancing the progress of the Market Square entrance, the retention of the chimneys, and a more complimentary design of the shade structures on Market Square. The motion passed.
- Members thanked John for attending the planning meetings for the City Hall renovations.
- Information on the renovation can be found at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/CityHall>

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Provided by Bill Conkey

333 North Fairfax Street

- On November 19, 2025, the BAR will hold the second Concept Review hearing for the proposed townhouse development that will encompass most of the block bounded by Queen Street, North Fairfax Street, North Lee Street, and Princess Street. At the first Concept Review hearing, the Board provided feedback on the proposed design including a discussion of the layout of the townhouse blocks and how they relate to the nearby context. The applicant is returning with design revisions based on these comments.

City Hall and Market Square

- At the November 5, 2025, BAR hearing, the Board considered the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for modifications to the City Hall building and Market Square. After public testimony and deliberations on the part of the Board, the Board voted to continue the hearing to the next available hearing date. This discussion will be resumed at the hearing scheduled for November 19, 2025. As this is a continuation of the previous hearing, the Board will pick up the discussion where it was left off, during the deliberation period. Since the public comment portion of the hearing is closed, no public testimony will be received.

910 King Street

- The owner of 910 King Street has submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations to the building at 910 King Street. The scope of the modifications will include metalwork at the roof, a new decorative railing at the main entrance, signage, and painting the existing brick on the east, west, and south elevations. This scope is similar to a previous application which was deferred in order to address

comments from the Board. The case will be heard at the December 3, 2025, BAR hearing.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Update: Gretchen Bulova

- Freedom House exterior rehabilitation is now complete and the site reopened on November 6th. A ribbon cutting event was held Saturday, November 8 at 1 p.m. The program also included stationed tours of the exterior renovation.
- Planning for the interior renovation and new exhibitions has begun. We hope to have a cost for the proposed interior by early spring to help with fundraising.
- Plans for Alexandria's Commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary are underway. A launch event is planned for January 26th at 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum.
- Staff is planning the 13th annual Cider Festival on November 22nd. All are welcome!
- The Lord and Lady Provost from Dundee, Scotland will be visiting Alexandria for this year's Scottish Walk.
- The city's FY27 budget process is beginning and will be completed in May.

Public Comment

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. The next meeting is planned for December 16, 2025, at the Lloyd House.

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