

**Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission**  
**MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

8:00 a.m

Via Zoom

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In Attendance: Susan Horne, Deborah Osborne, Taryn Anthony,  
Excused: Melinda Barnes, Marie Smith, Michael Commisso  
Unexcused: Carter Batey  
City Staff: Dan Lee, staff, Office of Historic Alexandria  
Whitney Harris, staff, Office of Historic Alexandria

Guests: John Chapman, Tiffany Pache

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1. Call to Order – Chairwoman Horne called the meeting to order 8:12 am

2. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of July meeting–

A lack of quorum meant that the July meeting minutes could not be approved

4. Advocacy Updates –

HARC Report- Osborne’s notes from the July HARC Meeting: Deaccessions deferred until first week in December 2021. Someone from Living Legends will attend to state her case on deaccessions.

Historic Alexandria Foundation-permits issued for work on J. Black House for demolition at curved wall and kitchen. Nothing is happening yet with other structures and outbuildings.

Elks Lodge-Preservation Virginia said it could have a banner. Discussion about not to put a date on the banner.

There will be a September or October meeting (perhaps of HARC) at the Elks Lodge preceded by a tour. SINCE THIS MEETING, I learned the HARC meeting for September is virtual.

There was discussion of the possibility of having a HARC meeting at the Freedom House.

River Farm-hope to be open to the public.

Torpedo Factory - discussion about a “vibrancy study.” As of June stakeholders haven’t been assigned. HARC has an interest.

Report there was 26% vacancy in City buildings.

There was mention of Preservation Virginia and affordable housing and historic preservation.

HARC is drafting new bylaws that may be tabled at the September meeting and there was discussion of a mission statement..

OHA Report –OHA was able to get the resignation paperwork in to allow for the appointment of two new members. Tiffany Pache is the new Governor’s appointment. City Council will appoint the other new member. OHA is going to significantly reduce the length and detail that goes into all of its commission and committee meeting minutes. Osborne objected, saying that it shows a lack of transparency. All virtual meetings have a recording posted on the commission web page.

City Updates- At the July 29 hearing, the BAR voted to defer the Heritage development project. It will return to the BAR for the October 6 hearing.

The 101 Duke Street development project will also return to the BAR for the October 6 hearing. This project proposes demolishing the existing parking garage and replacing it with six townhouses.

We expect that the October BAR hearings will be in person meetings with electronic participation available to some members. However, we do not have a final decision on that yet.

The Historic Preservation staff is permitted to hire a part-time, temporary, paid intern to work on the survey of the Old and Historic Alexandria District. Interviews begin this week. The project will end no later than June 30, 2022.

Historic Preservation staff has created a policy for administrative approval of solar panels in the Old and Historic Alexandria District. This will go to the BAR for the September 16<sup>th</sup> hearing. An administrative approval policy is already in place for the Parker Gray District.

Historic Preservation staff is working with the City’s Energy Manager and other agencies to draft a permitting process for electric vehicle chargers.

6. Old Business- Anthony and Commisso inspected 5 properties and submitted the inspection forms and photos.

7. New Business – Councilmember John Chapman gave a presentation on the preservation of African American sites in Alexandria. He gave an overview of his Manumission Tour Company, including his tours of Old Town, the Duke Street corridor, and Underground Railroad locations mentioned in the 1872 book by William Still. He also discussed meeting with and presenting to the Elks Lodge and the Departmental Progressive Club on Gibbon St.

8. Updates/Issues-

9. Next meeting October 13, 2021 at 8 a.m. in person at the Lloyd House

10. Adjournment – Susan Horne adjourned meeting at 8:59 a.m.