

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

PRESENT:

Elliot Bell-Krasner
Melinda Barnes
Michael Commisso
Jolande Goldberg
Martha Harris
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson

Vanessa Herndon
Laura Lieberman
Linda Lovell
Ann Marie Maloney
Elizabeth McCall
Carolyn Meza
McArthur Myers

Gail Rothrock
Danny Smith
Anna Stillner
Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Patricia Washington
Margaret Wood

EXCUSED: Dennis Hensley, Allen Schirmer, Richard Webber

UNEXCUSED: Radka Mavrova

CITY STAFF: Al Cox, J. Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria

GUESTS: Ted Pulliam

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hendrickson at 7:33pm.

Nancy Tingen moved that the minutes from the December meeting were approved as amended, seconded by Elliot Bell-Krasner, minutes were approved unanimously.

Alexandria Waterfront Plan

Chairman Hendrickson welcomed Ted Pulliam, an original member of the committee for the Alexandria Waterfront Plan. Ted prefixed his comments with the report, that 3 development projects are designed to fund the waterfront amenities and pointed out the areas of focus for HARC. Members must remember that the implementation of the art and historical elements will be dependent on future funding.

The small area plan was adopted in 2012. At that time the art and historical elements of the plan were combined. The area included in the plan stretches from Pendleton to Wolfe and includes four private developers and one public area. There are six proposed theme areas to feature the important history of the particular area. In the northern part of the waterfront the historical plan

is still in flux. The history of Alexandria begins in the Robinson Terminal North area near the 1732 West Tobacco Ave Warehouse. The current thought is to interpret the history of early Indian tribal presence and the beginnings of commerce. The theme for Founders Park would depict founders of Alexandria and the Nation. The current interpretive plan is to have a promenade featuring engraved stones, e.g. markers and medallions, with historical quotations. Areas that would be featured are: Indian tribal history, African-American history, life and commerce (fishing) along the waterfront, fires, war. A self-walking tour would guide visitors along this historic promenade. The original shoreline is to be marked throughout the area, including the interior of appropriate buildings.

Next projects are Robinson Terminal South and the Old Dominion Boat Club, which will be relocating to the site of the former “Beachcomber” property at the end of Prince street with work probably beginning in June. Robinson Terminal South has its DSUP approved by the City and the historic interpretation plan for that site appears well done and will focus on Waterfront Industries. Some streets within the new complex will be named after early Industrialists in Alexandria. They will also re-create a railing along the sidewalk.

Robinson Terminal North received its DSUP in October, but their history plan needs further refinement. The Olin-Group is coordinating the Waterfront Plan design and is now working on the common elements; paving, lighting, curbing etc. The southern part of the waterfront has the most focused historic plan interpreting an original flourmill, ship building sliding into the 20th century with airplane manufacture, with a newly created Fitzgerald Square, after demolition of the Old Boathouse building, providing a park at the end of King Street.

The implementation of all this depends on the progress of the flood mitigation plan. The members of HARC should continue to inform their member groups of the need for ongoing funding. Encourage City Council to budget funding to preserve artifacts, ensure the development of the historic elements perhaps hire a history consultant to pull all the elements together into a cohesive plan. Discussion ranged from – has funding for the flood mitigation plan been approved? Has anyone studied other communities with similar situation – what model did they use? Should local colleges/universities be approached for internships? Should programs be established to educate the community on the project?

The project has just begun and the city was not properly prepared for the size of the artifacts found. It was decided that each group would discuss the need for cohesive direction and funding will be needed from: City Funds, Private Funds, as well as Grants and Gifts going to the Waterfront account.

Office of Historic Alexandria Strategic Plan

Lance Mallamo distributed discussion points for the OHA strategic plan. He wishes the commission to discuss the points in upcoming meetings. In February, Lance would like to discuss point 6 and will request a CMO Rep. as well as someone from Foundation Ctr. to attend the next meeting.

Goal 6.0: To support and maintain civic culture, ongoing planning initiatives, special projects and economic sustainability within the City of Alexandria.

Objective 6.1 Increase Fund-Raising and Development Opportunities
Objective 6.2 Enhance Intermodal Transportation Opportunities
Objective 6.3 Develop and Maintain Special Project Initiatives"

Ramsey House

Chairman Hendrickson handed out information concerning his meeting with council members. ARHA has no interest in historic implementation. ARHA's plan is to develop the property into public/private housing with the plan that the private housing would fund the public. The current plan would triple the housing.

There will be two meetings coming up: Planning Commission on Feb. 2 and City Council on Feb. 20.

Elliot Bell-Krasner suggested that 5-6 HARC members would speak at the upcoming hearing before the planning commission. McArthur Myers, Martha Harris and Michael Commissio felt the members should focus on alternative plans, saving one building for historic purposes, resolution of Section 106 and ARHA's lack of transparency. Patricia Washington asked that one of the alternative plans should be a preservation of the social history, perhaps increasing the capability of the Black History museum to interpret this area. It was decided that members who would speak before the commission would clarify the points by email before the meeting date.

HARC passed the following motion:

Elliot Bell-Krasner moved to request the Planning Commission defer review of the application of ARMA for Redevelopment of the Ramsay Homes site until preservation options are reviewed by an independent construction cost consultant and public housing estimator as well as the section-106 process completed.

Linda Lovell seconded the motion and it was approved by members unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lovell, member of HARC
J. Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA