

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

PRESENT:

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

Laura Lieberman
Elizabeth McCall
Carolyn Meza
McArthur Myers
John Dumsick
Danny Smith

Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Richard Webber
Margaret Wood
Thomas Soule
Stephen Damm

EXCUSED: Linda Lovell, Gail Rothrock

UNEXCUSED:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW HARC MEMBERS

The Chairman introduced new HARC members, Tom Soule and Stephen Damm.

Tom Soule represents planning district three. He is an educator, government contractor and small business owner. His interests lay in promoting education, tourism and preservation of Alexandria's history.

Stephen Damm represents a different planning district. He has worked for the Smithsonian Institution and the National Parks Service and his specialization is in archaeology.

The Chairman informed the new members about the wealth of knowledge located on the Office of Historic Alexandria's website, specifically to read about the City's waterfront master plan.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2016 MINUTES

Indy McCall made a motion to approve the November 15, 2016 HARC meeting minutes with minor amendments. The motion was seconded by Elliot Bell-Krasner and the motion was approved unanimously.

HARC VACANCIES

Several HARC vacancies were discussed. It appears that HARC has five vacancies for the following associations/groups: Masonic Temple, Archives and Records, Alexandria Historical Society, Christ Church, and Planning District One. The Chairman said he attempted to contact the City Clerk to inquire about these vacancies but is still awaiting a response.

Elliot Bell-Krasner suggested that the five organizations may not know they have representation on HARC; He suggested that HARC members attend these organization's monthly meetings to inform them that they have a vacancy on HARC as well as educate them about HARC's purpose.

HARC RETREAT

The HARC retreat was discussed. The retreat is set for January 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tentative topics will include: HARC's focus/objectives for the coming year; preservation and cultural resources; legal and regulatory issues faced by similar cities across the country; review of the Office of Historic Alexandria's management plan; how to make meetings more efficient and effective. These discussions will be led by group panels made up of subject matter experts and will focus on the citizenry's point of view as well as the point of view of the City staff. The date of the retreat may change to February 2017 and the location is to be determined.

Elliot Bell-Krasner suggested that the retreat focus in three things: advocacy and education focusing on local history and historical preservation, public relations regarding HARC's public image and creating a vision for HARC.

McArthur Meyers suggested that we discuss the City Council's expectations of HARC and citizen volunteers. He suggested that city councilmembers or their representatives be invited to attend the retreat.

Tom Soule indicated that he would like to see the retreat have an orientation for new members.

Al Cox suggested HARC invite members of the City's Board of Architectural Review (BAR) to the retreat.

Michael Commisso agreed with McArthur Meyer's suggestion of inviting city councilmembers or their representative to the retreat.

Susan Hellman suggested the retreat focus on how much money tourism brings to the city.

HARC'S ANNUAL REPORT

HARC's annual report was discussed. Minimal grammar and name spelling changes was suggested. Indy McCall made a motion to approve the annual report with the suggested amendments. Elliot Bell-Krasner seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

RAMSEY HOMES

The status of the Ramsey Homes and the section 106 process was discussed. Gail Rothrock provided a good summary of the last meeting via email. The City Council approved \$50,000 for historic interpretation of the site.

WATERFRONT PLAN UPDATE

The group was given an update on the status of the waterfront plan. Indy McCall informed the group that the plan was drawn up in 2012 and it had both history and art concepts included in the plan; however, there was no money set aside for interpretation of the plan. Because of this plan, a joint group for history and the arts interpretation was formed and they came up with suggestions for the city. The group focusing on the art came up with their own, separate, master plan for interpretation. Indy informed the group that there are two battles going on now: 1) Try to keep the art and history plan together, rather than separate; 2) Making sure the historical aspects of the plan get implemented.

MEMBER REPORTS

The floor was opened to member announcements/concerns. John Dumsick informed the group that the Carlyle House has a new educator/curator and Carlyle House will be fully staffed by the first week of February.

McArthur Meyers commended Lance on the contents of the kiosks located on King Street.

Jolande Goldberg informed the group that the three year lease on the Torpedo Factory is still at risk, the City of Alexandria has taken over the management of the building and because of that services have declined which has resulted in artists leaving and a decline in visitors.

NEXT MEETING

The next HARC meeting will be held at Lloyd House on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. The date, time and location of the HARC retreat will be determined at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy E. Tingen, Recording Secretary, HARC
J. Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA