

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

PRESENT:

Commisso, Goldberg, Harris,
Hellmann, Hendrickson,
Lieberman, Lovell, Mc Call,
Meyers, Rothrock, Smith,
Tingen, Tracey, Wood, Damm

EXCUSED:

Dumsick, Bell-Krasner, Moore

UNEXCUSED:

Soule, Webber

CITY STAFF: Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW HARC MEMBERS

The Chairman informed the group that HARC has a new member representing the Masonic Memorial. This person was not present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE January 17, 2017 MINUTES

Members reviewed the January 17, 2017 HARC minutes. Some minor amendments were suggested. Bill Hendrickson made a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Linda Lovell, the motion was voted on and was unanimously approved.

MARCH 4, 2017 HARC RETREAT

The retreat is scheduled to take place at Christ Church on March 4, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Chairman encouraged all members to do the suggested homework. The purpose of this meeting is to review HARC's mission and discuss current and future action items/goals. Kathryn McCarty will be the meeting facilitator. There will be a panel discussion about the challenges facing historic preservation from the perspective of City staff. Gretchen Bulova, Al Cox, Patricia Washington and Audrey Davis will be speaking on this subject. Lance plans to give an update on what happened with the 2007 historical preservation conference. The Chairman encouraged members to read this report before the retreat. Lance will email members the annual reports from 2010-2016. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Macarthur Myers asked if the retreat is open to the public. Lance informed the group that the retreat is a public meeting and will be advertised.

Margaret Wood suggested HARC's mission and scope be discussed at the retreat.

Martha Harris asked if the questions had been given to the panelists and attendees in advance of the retreat. The Chairman said the panelists have the questions and he will email them to members before the retreat.

Indy McCall suggested that part of the retreat consist of members informing the group about the associations they represent and what their organization advocates for, etc.

HARC DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN

This small area plan is the first time City staff has looked at this plan in a more in depth way. This plan provides a framework to be incorporated into any future small area plan. This plan will go to City Council and the Planning Commission in June 2017. The Chairman suggested that HARC could write a letter endorsing the new small area plan approach and send it to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Macarthur Meyers made a motion for HARC send a letter to the Planning Commission and City Council endorsing the old town north small area plan interpretation guide and historic implementation plan. The motion was seconded by Gail Rothrock. Discussion ensued and ended in the motion being tabled so it could be discussed at the March 21, 2017 meeting.

Gail Rothrock informed members that you can provide comments on the City's website for the proposed old town north small area plan. You can also email Catherine Miliaras directly. The Chairman encouraged members to provide comments via the website.

OHA UPDATES

OHA has full funding to purchase the Reeder House. OHA recently secured a Virginia Outdoors Foundation grant for \$350,000 , which will be added to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund grant of \$900,000 last September to meet the \$1,250,000 purchase price at no cost to the City. OHA plans to start an endowment for the Reeder House, which will be started with a major gift announcement from the Historic Alexandria Foundation in May. The Planning Commission will review historic park acquisition for the Reeder House to confirm compliance with the City's Master Plan on May 6, 2017, and City Council will consider the final acquisition on March 14, 2017. Mr. Reeder, who just celebrated his 90th birthday, will remain living in the house. On May 4, 2017 there will be a tour and happy hour at the Reeder House.

The City Manager is releasing OHAs 2018 proposed budget tonight. OHA's budget includes funding for a full-time curator position for Gadsbys Tavern.

Ramsey Homes mitigation was discussed. OHA will create their own website for the history and cultural significance of the Ramsey Homes. The Alexandria Black History Museum will have an exhibit on the Ramsey Homes. The Section 106 meeting last week had extremely low attendance. Citizens who were present were given colored dots to put on mitigation options that

they liked and disliked. Martha Harris informed members of the areas that got the most dots. The document detailing this information was also passed around to members to review.

OHA awarded an RFP for the preservation of the ship found along South Union Street/Hotel Indigo site. Danny Smith asked how much conservation of the ship is costing the City. Lance said it will cost the City between \$500,000 to \$600,000 for full conservation, but that grants and fund-raising projects are now being solicited.

OHA has recently posted all “Out of the Attic” articles online, with a searchable database. “This Day in Alexandria history” is also coming online soon and will also be searchable.

MEMBER REPORTS

The floor was opened to member announcements/concerns.

The first community meeting about the Torpedo Factory occurred today. The City will hire a consultant and will appoint a committee consisting of five members. Two members will represent the Commission for Arts, two members will be at-large and one member will be a lease holder from TFAC. Mrs. Goldberg passed out pamphlets to the group.

- The community engagement process will develop a set of goals/strategies for TFAC to help ensure a long term sustainable arts center.
- Commission members will be selected through an open application process.
- The engagement process will also include an online survey, town hall meetings, open house events, etc.
- February 21, 2017 Arts Commission will appoint two commissioners to serve on the task force, and then begin the advertisement process for the remaining members.
- March/April 2017 the community process begins once all members of the task force have been appointed. Staff will develop a webpage to keep the community informed.

HAF will be hosting their annual garden party fundraiser on June 11, 2017 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

BAR approved an addition to 319 Queen Street which will destroy the historical integrity of the home.

Spring to Action will take place mid-April 2017. Anyone can go online and donate.

The Society for Preservation of Black History is in the process of updating their website.

The Del Ray Café won the Heart of Del Ray award.

The ice well gate sign says “volunteers needed.” Ms. Lovell urged members to tell anyone/everyone you know that all City museums need volunteers.

GW Birthday Celebration Committee will be holding a “Walking with Washington” tour this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Best Bib and Tucker Ball will take place at Gadsbys Tavern on March 11, 2017.

Lee Fendall House will hold a lecture entitled, “Furniture, Family and Race” on March 18, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased through Eventbrite.

Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission are pursuing an easement for 319 Queen Street. They are waiting to see what happens when it goes to City Council.

Fran Bromberg, City's Archaeologist, is retiring on March 1, 2017.

NEXT MEETING

The HARC retreat will be held at 9:00 a.m., March 4, 2017 at Christ Church and will be advertised as a public meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., March 21, 2017 at Lloyd House.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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