

HARC Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2017

7:00 PM

Lloyd House

Commission Members:

Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission: Melinda Barnes

Alexandria Association: Nancy Tingen

Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: McArthur Myers

Carlyle House: John Dumsick

George Washington Masonic Memorial: Shawn Eyer

Lee-Fendall House: Laura Lieberman

Mortar & Pestle Society: Linda Lovett

Business Representative: Danny Smith

Planning Area 1: Margaret Wood

Planning District 2: Maddy McCoy

Planning District 2: Wm. Hendrickson

Planning District 3: Steve Stuart

Excused Absences:

Martha Harris

Krystyn Moon

Gail Rothrock

Elizabeth McCall

Tobin Tracey

Guests:

Councilman John Chapman

Al Cox, City Historic Preservation Manager

Office of Historic Alexandria:

Gretchen Bulova

Danny Smith called the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting to order at 7:02 PM at Lloyd House.

1. Approval of Minutes for October 17, 2017 Meeting

(7:40pm) On a motion by McArthur Myers, seconded by Steve Stuart the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission voted to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting as submitted.

2. Chairs Update and Announcements

Danny Smith:

- Alexandria Historical Society invited HARC to submit nominations for their Alexandria Historical Society Awards.
- Confirmed that a letter to Mayor Silberberg and Members of Council regarding NOVA Parks and their relation with Carlyle House was sent out on 10/19/2017.

a. Public Meeting on Alfred Street Baptist Church Plans - postponed.

- A public meeting was to be held regarding the plans for expansion of the Alfred Street Baptist Church. This meeting will not be held in December at The Lyceum as planned. Because of construction issues, the Church decided not to submit the concept review documents to the BAR. They will also, probably postpone hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council. The public meeting will be held at a more appropriate time.

b. Retirement Fete for Lance Mallamo

- Will be held at The Lyceum.
- Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 4-7pm.
- City Leader Remarks at 4:30PM
- Public Remarks (including HARC) at 6:00PM
- RSVP to Gretchen - needs an estimate.

c. City Budget Input - Deadline Dec. 15

Danny Smith:

- Mark Jinks, Acting City Manager sent out a letter requesting all departments reduce their budget by approximately 2%. Has been projected that revenues will increase by 1% and expenses will increase by 3%. The gap needs to be closed by reducing budgets by 2% (estimated \$61,000.)

ACTION ITEM:

Jinks is requesting all commissions that work with city departments to cooperate with those departments to identify which portions of their budget would hurt more or less if cut. Commission should put together information on the benefits OHA has to the city in terms of tourism and business. HARC should explain how areas like, Old Town and Del Ray encourages visitors and business. Emphasis that money spent on OHA is well spent and returns in larger amounts.

Due by December 15th.

Open Discussion:

- OHA has saved a significant amount of money with their large volunteer base.
- OHA also saves money by raising private contributions.

d. Freedom House Museum Update

McArthur Myers:

- Term is up; last meeting will be in December.

Freedom House Museum, 1415 Duke Street:

- Rumors about Freedom House's possible foreclosure. Explains there was a discussion between Bill Dickinson, Lance, and himself about the Urban League and Freedom House. A meeting followed between Lance, himself, and a consultant that works with Freedom House discussing a strategy to liaison support and resources from the city to Freedom House. In October, Lance held a meeting to update this strategy. There was discussion of a partnership with the city and there was outreach from the city to Freedom House.
- The Treasurer and the Director (Tracey Walker) of Freedom House clarified that the building is not up for sale and they are still in need of support. They would like to have an open discussion with Historic Alexandria to clarify the rumor and talk about their operations such as; docent services, systems that need updating, electronics and kiosks that need upgrading, and assistance with grant writing. There was an agreeance among HARC members that communication needs to improve with Tracey; more transparency is needed. Legal issues need to be discussed with OHA and the City of Alexandria.

Gretchen Bulova:

- Plans to set-up a meeting with Audrey Davis (Director of Black History Museum) and Tracey Walker. OHA is ready to take possession of the artifacts. Also, prepared to assist with daily operations and would like to see the site open on a regular basis. It is in OHA's best interest to work with Freedom House.

Councilman John Chapman:

- Expressed concern regarding endangered sites. Would like to create a city tool box in the event of last minute private property foreclosures and similar situations. States, the email regarding the foreclosure of Freedom House caught him off-guard.

Danny Smith:

- Brought attention to the HARC Finance Sub-Committee, which helps with locating grant money and other means of support for people/organizations with historic properties when they are facing financial stresses.

(7:30pm) On a motion by Maddy McCoy, seconded by McArthur Myers the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission voted to Quorum. Melinda Barnes had to abstain.

e. South Pitt Street Property - Painted Masonry

Danny Smith:

- On South Pitt Street, property owners painted their brick facade. They appealed to BAR and City Council, both declined to retroactively approve. During the hearing it was requested that the City Manager review the situation. There was an agreeance among HARC members that they should weigh in on the matter.

Al Cox:

- The question of whether there should be a prohibition on painting previously unpainted masonry in the two local historic districts was brought up during the hearing. Since 1992, a certificate of appropriateness is required from the BAR to paint previously unpainted masonry. If you have painted masonry, you can continue to paint. BAR staff recommendation is to simplify the situation and officially prohibit the painting of unpainted masonry; avoids appealing to BAR and City Council in the future. A solution would be to create a simple text amendment within an estimated timeframe of three months.

Danny Smith:

- Invited Al Cox to come back to the next HARC meeting to report on where things stand regarding the South Pitt Street property. Would like HARC to be involved in order to promote and stand behind what BAR believes is best for the city.

John Dumsick:

- Appearance is not the only concern, but also proper maintenance of soft brick masonry structures. Appropriate methods of taking the paint off should also be discussed. There may be techniques that do not fit within the range of common preservation guidelines regarding historic structures.

Al Cox:

- Confirms this issue was addressed in the memo. Notes there have been more applications to remove paint in the past five years than there have been to paint. Since the 1940s, people have painted in order to avoid having to clean or repaint masonry (deferred maintenance.) Chemicals have improved; they are now environmentally

friendly and can be neutralized with water. Low pressure power washing with water is actually not a problem. For Preservation Week last year there was a hands-on work session on repointing masonry in order to reach the appropriate mortars. For Preservation Week 2018, there will be a focus on appropriate and environmentally safe ways to strip paint. The goal is to get Old Town back to its original appearance.

3. Brief Description of Represented Organizations

f. Lee-Fendall House - Laura Lieberman

The Lee-Fendall House was built in 1785, by Philip Fendall. He was involved with commerce and political happenings in Alexandria and marries into the Lee family three times. The house stays in the family's possession for about a century before it was used as a Civil War hospital. In 1907, the house is sold to Robert Downham. In 1937, the house is sold to John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers of America. Lewis dies in 1969 and is the last to own the house. In response to discussions about tearing down the house, the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation purchased the property and turned it into a museum in 1974. Regarding museum operations, the site is a small house museum which strives to stay in compliance with current museum state practices. Their staff goes above and beyond to lift the standards for house museums. Their priority is to portray the full story by focusing on several different aspects of its unique history. Ex. Tours focus on labor (from slave to paid.) There are highlights such as, carpentry in Alexandria. Recently, there was a lecture on the history of pie. A Prohibition themed fundraiser, "Bourbon in the Basement" also recently passed. The Lee-Fendall House has a goal to create a variety of events both entertaining and educational.

Coming Up:

Victorian Open House on December 2nd.

g. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary - Linda Lovell

One of the most unique historic sites in Alexandria. Edward Stabler started the business in 1792. In 1804, he built the 107 building on South Fairfax Street. John Leadbeater was hired to work in the business and eventually marries into the family. He became the primary owner in 1850. The business went through at least fifteen name changes throughout the 141 years of its operation. The business prospered through the Civil War with Mary Leadbeater (wife of John Leadbeater) as the owner. They started off as compounders and after the Civil War became wholesalers. At one point, the family owned eleven buildings. These buildings are still in existence today and are mostly private homes; the Athenaeum is among these properties. In 1933, the business went bankrupt and had to close its doors. Two months later, the building's contents went up for public auction. The Landmark Society and a man interested in Apothecaries were able to work together and purchase the two remaining buildings (105 and 107 South Fairfax.) They came to agreeance that the contents should stay where they were. In 1934, The Landmark Society of Alexandria became the state corporation commissioned to set up museum operations. Some of those individuals include: Ida Mason Burke (Burke and

Herbert), Rebecca Ramsey Reese (member of the DAR, also involved with Gadsby's Tavern), and J.W. Timberman (Timberman's Pharmacy.) Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. By the 1990s, the buildings began to fall apart. There was a major need for renovations and updates including; a fire suppression system and new stairs. A new group forms and begins a massive campaign to address these issues. This group reaches out to major pharmaceutical associations and pharmaceutical companies such as; Bayer, Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, Sigma Chemical, and GlaxoSmithKline. The group received numerous donations and established an endowment. They were able to complete the restorations and renovations that were needed. In 2005, the museum was gifted to the City of Alexandria and The Landmark Society became the museum's friend's group since they no longer had ownership of the building. Currently, the Mortar and Pestle Society is responsible for fundraising and educational aspects of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. `

4. Standing Sub-Committee Reports

ACTION ITEM: Identify the Chair of each Sub-Committee

h. OHA and Planning Support

Linda, Gail, Laura
No report

i. Advocacy and Preservation

Mac, Tobin, Martha, Gail, Bill
No report

j. Finance

Keith, Indy, Martha, John, Danny
Chair: Danny
No report

k. Educational Outreach

Jolande, John, Keith, Kristen
No report

l. Waterfront History Plan - African-American Heritage Trail

Maddy, Inde, Shawn, Bill
No report

5. Staff Update: Gretchen

Gretchen Bulova:

Retirement Fete for Lance Mallamo:

- Will be held at The Lyceum
- Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 4-7pm.

- City Leader Remarks at 4:30PM
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Holiday Event Season:

- Museum Store Sunday: Major discounts and refreshments for the public. OHA has partnered with the Museum Store Association to launch this event for the first time. Ten museum stores across Alexandria are participating.

Sister Cities Visit:

- The new Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee and a representative from Caen will be visiting to participate in the Scottish Walk. They will be marching in the parade and attending the Whiskey Tasting.
- HARC members are invited to help showcase the city to our visitors.
- They already have requested to visit the Police Department and the Chief of Police is gladly welcoming them.

Site Improvements:

- In the process of getting new wayfinding signs for historic sites; Fort Ward, Black History, and The Lyceum in particular.
- Gadsby's is the first to have a sign. Their color is brown, in relation to the arabica bean, which represents the Coffee House that operated in the 1785 building.

McArthur Myers: Asks if the signs on the corner of South Henry Street and Duke Street will be taken down. They are not accurate; pointing in wrong directions.

Gretchen Bulova:

- Still in the process of getting signs down. Requested that if HARC members have the opportunity to send her pictures of the signs that need to be taken down, it will speed up the process. To clarify, old 1930's tourism AAA signs are staying up since they are historic. Signs from the mid 1990s and onward (sepia toned with thistle) will be taken down.

John Dumsick: Asks what will be done with the signs once they are taken down. Proposed the idea that they could generate revenue.

Gretchen Bulova:

- Assured that the signs will be kept. Unsure if they could sell city property, but acknowledged it was a good idea worth looking into.
- Lloyd House and Lyceum kitchen renovations have been completed. Still looking for more upgrades to The Lyceum. Notes, there are a lot of vacancies within OHA and if there is a potential to use some of that money towards site improvements, it will be done.

- In January, the Strategic Planning Process will begin. There will be a staff portion and stakeholders portion. Heads-up, HARC will probably be asked to be a stakeholder. Tom Kaiden, the CFO for Visit Alexandria will be leading OHA through this process.

Murray Dick-Fawcett House Update:

- OHA has formally began the documentation process. There are four phases: oral history, photography, archival review, and a building portion. Teams have been set-up and have begun working. Oral History is moving forward with Mr. Reeder (current owner of house.) They are also interviewing the Cheesemens, the prior owners of the house. In regards to the photography phase, pictures will be taken in order to capture the interior presently, before it is purchased and things are moved around. The Murray Dick-Fawcett House will be our Historic Alexandria Ornament this year. They should be arriving very soon and a press release will follow. Proceeds will benefit historic preservation. The ornaments will be available at most museum shops.

Maddy McCoy: Asks if there are any historic documents or collections at Mr. Reeder's house?

Gretchen:

- Anything that should have been collected was collected when the Cheesemen's prepared to leave the house. Everything is being stored at The Lyceum. We are currently working with Mr. Reeder to identify items from his collection that we wish to use regarding interpretation of the house.

Danny Smith:

- There may be a significant announcement next month regarding some documents that will most likely be acquired by the city.

Wm. Hendrickson: Regarding the Ramsey Home's Site, are they going to demolish the homes and start construction?

Al Cox:

- There will be a meeting next week with BAR staff and Housing staff to start planning the symposium that will be done in conjunction with the demolition. Not positive if the meeting will be open to the public or only for staff, will check. The interior fixtures will be removed so we can see the pre-concrete wall panel systems and begin documentation. The process is moving forward as part of section 106. There will be a public tour probably in the spring.

6. Commissioner Updates

Carlyle House - John Dumsick:

- Recently, held the first ever, Scary Movie Film Contest for High School students. Had to create a 5 minute long scary movie and include 5 facts about Carlyle House. Two teams competed: Arlington Career Center and T.C. Williams High School. The event was

hosted by the Black History Museum and about 50 people attended. City employees provided the students with feedback and critique.

Upcoming:

- Soldiers Christmas: Free tours will be given. Slogan: Celebrate the Holidays in Revolutionary Style.
- Candlelight Tours in conjunction with Lee-Fendall and Gadsby's will be on the 9th of December.

Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission - Melinda Barnes:

- Considering an easement at 213 North Fairfax Street. Some members went on an inspection today (11/21.)

George Washington Masonic Memorial - Shawn Eyer:

- Washington's Birthday Gala: Free symposium, open to the public about George Washington at 1pm. The gala will be held at night. There will be music and meals are included with ticket purchase. More information is available on their website.

Planning Area 1: Margaret Wood

- Construction still in progress. No updates regarding Archaeological finds at Robinson Terminal South. Archaeology will be giving an update on December 5th.

Danny Smith:

- Reported human remains that were found at Robinson Terminal South turned out to be animal remains.

Linda - Mortar and Pestle Society:

- The Mortar and Pestle Society held a very successful fundraiser for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum; it was a sold-out event. Ambassador John Campbell allowed a pre-cocktail party in his private home which was once the residence of Dr. Craik/Dr. Elisha Dick (209 Prince Street.) Notes, Ambassador John Campbell is taking very good stewardship of his historic property.

Linda volunteers at Archaeology and offers to give an update since their representative is not present.

- Archaeology will be hosting an Ornament Workshop, where they will be making hardtack (ship biscuit) ornaments.
- Emma Richardson, the Education Coordinator at Archaeology has rearranged and created new exhibits.
- Texas A&M has launched a website for the Ship's conservation process.
- In October at Shuter's Hill, a three cent postage coin was found. The coin is made of silver and has a date of 1852.

Lee-Fendall House - Laura Lieberman:

- Victorian Christmas Open House: December 2nd from 11am - 3:30pm
- Santa will be present. Also, treats, story time, crafts, and an antique toy exhibit.

Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage - McArthur Myers:

- Brings attention to Williams Thomas who served in World War I and died in 1918. Through research, has discovered five more African American men from Alexandria that died during World War I.

Al Cox:

- Regarding Robinson Terminal South, foundation stones have been uncovered. Probably the oldest dressed foundation stones in the area. BAR has recommended that they use as many foundation stones as possible for interpretation on site. Also, looking into using some of these foundation stones in nearby parks.

Business Representative - Danny Smith:

- Alexandria City Public Schools has built a new school. There is an opportunity to suggest a name.

ACTION ITEM:

There will be discussion on possible names for this school during the next HARC meeting. The deadline for submissions is January 15th.

- Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is sponsoring *A Christmas Carol* at the Little Theater of Alexandria on December 6. Featuring, Father Christmas.

ACTION ITEM:

Identify an official Secretary at the next HARC meeting.

McArthur Myers:

African American Heritage Trail:

- First meeting was October, 25. Second meeting is scheduled for December 5. Key is to connect the dots of all African American entities within the city, with a focus on the Waterfront.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai