

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

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**PRESENT:**

Jolande Goldberg	Laura Lieberman	Gail Rothrock
Martha Harris	Elizabeth McCall	Danny Smith
William Hendrickson	Maddy McCoy	Steve Stuart
Kelly Spradely-Kurowski	McArthur Myers	

**EXCUSED:** Linda Lovell, Elliot Bell-Krasner, John Dumsick, Krystyn Moon, Nancy Tingen, Margaret Wood.

**ABSENT:** Tobin Tracey, Melinda Barnes, Keith Moore, Jennifer Walsh, Shawn Eyer

**CITY STAFF:** Nicole Quinn, OHA  
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McCall at 7:26 PM at Lloyd House,

Elizabeth McCall opened the discussion

**Approval of Minutes for November 21, 2017 Meeting**

On a motion by McArthur Myers, seconded by Steve Stuart, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2017 meeting.

**Chairs Update and Announcements**

Freedom House Museum Update:

OHA staff have met with representatives from Freedom House who expressed that the site is in crisis mode. Freedom House wants to develop a trust fund/relationship with the city. The building has divisions: Urban League and the museum itself. There is currently no curator or museum operator. The 501(c)(3) status is current. There is an easement on the property. If the Urban League does sell the building, they want to stay involved with the museum and on-site as lessee.

OHA has offered to give tours of Freedom House to the public each Saturday during February, in honor of Black History Month.

Letter to City Manager on OHA Budget:

Letter was reviewed. Each museum has a \$10,000 operating budget; no place to take cuts. There are already savings in personnel costs. OHA needs support for a development director.

Alfred Street Baptist Church:

More of an issue regarding traffic, not historic preservation. There needs to be an archaeological presence to preserve the historic sanctuary. The December 13<sup>th</sup> briefing was postponed until the spring of 2018. No updates. Currently, dealing with hydrology issues.

McArthur Myers suggested to use Anna Lynch's research from the 1980s regarding the townhomes.

Robinson Terminal South:

Currently, trying to figure out what to do with the boundary stones. There are hundreds of these stones which were used for Pioneer Mill, dating back to 1853. They are limestone from the quarry in Aquia, Virginia. EYA owns the stones, not the city. Archaeology is committed to preserving the stones. They would be a great asset along the waterfront (Waterfront History Plan.)

BAR and Painting Policy:

402 South Pitt Street – Unpainted Masonry

Council upheld their decision. No changes will be made in the code. Old Town Civic Association stated the code was correct, but wasn't followed properly. HARC should assist with educating about the Archaeological Protection Code.

Group Discussion/Ideas:

Homeowner is ultimately responsible, but contractors should be more informative. Realtors/owners are not required to notify the buyer of historic properties. Firms are receptive to educating agents about preservation, but there is no guarantee the information will be passed down to the home owner.

1. Increase mailings from BAR.
2. Develop annual workshops.
3. Ad/Marketing campaigns.
4. Event outreach (Old Town Historic Day, Preservation Month, Archaeology Month.)
5. Emphasize that property value will go up if historic properties are maintained.
6. Create partnerships and offer support.

(Addition to agenda) Cameron Run Regional Park:

Ten-year extension of Carlyle House, not sure about The Bank of Alexandria.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Elizabeth McCall recommended that Maddie McCoy call Susan Hellman, Director of Carlyle House to inquire about The Bank of Alexandria.
2. Forum invitation introduced by Steve Stuart.

Combined Sewer System:

An issue of waste being pumped into Hunting Creek and the Potomac. Outflow 1 is causing the most pollution. The city has proposed to make more tunnels. An alternative solution would be to create containment facilities (tanks) at outflows. HARC should monitor this issue; what the city recommends. Ex. construction vibration could cause foundation damage at historic sites.

2018 Meeting Schedule:

HARC meetings will be held 12 months/year. City wants better records of attendance and reports. Overall, HARC needs to improve attendance. Volunteer hours should be recorded.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Be prepared to discuss off-site meetings in January.
2. Prepare a short bio (no more than 3-4 sentences) and send to Elizabeth McCall. HARC members will introduce themselves for January meeting.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports; Status of Chair Elections

**ACTION ITEM:**

Elect chair by the January meeting.

*Educational Outreach Committee:*

**ACTION ITEM:**

Define outreach.

Waterfront History Plan – African-American Heritage Trail:

Eleanor Breen, Gretchen Bulova, Audrey Davis, and Elizabeth McCall are currently creating a template for a set of guided trails. The goal is to combine economics, the Civil War, social life, and possibly other topics. The test case/discussion will be held January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Watson Reading Room.

A plan is currently being developed for the ship's return; there is a lot of interest in the waterfront. A history visitor/maritime center in the Strand area of the waterfront would be ideal. This would be a relatively small building which would serve as a focal point for historic tours. The center would be funded by the city and staffed by OHA. The ship would be maintained by a private foundation.

OHA Announcement:

Strategic Planning meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> at The Lyceum from 6:30-9:30 PM. Ideas and visions for a five-year plan will be discussed. Planning Committee should attend. Everyone is welcome.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission