

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 17, 2018

PRESENT:

Melinda Barnes	Bill Hendrickson	Gail Rothrock
Stephen Damm	Laura Lieberman	Danny Smith
John Dumsick	Linda Lovell	Stephen Stuart
Shawn Eyer	Elizabeth McCall	Nancy Tingen
Martha Harris	Severiano Ortiz	Tobin Tracey

EXCUSED: Jolande Goldberg, Maddy McCoy, Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, Monica St.Dennis

ABSENT: Elliot Bell-Krasner, Krystyn Moon, Keith Moore,

CITY STAFF: Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Al Cox, BAR
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Danny Smith at 7:09 p.m. at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for May 15, 2018 Meeting

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Laura Lieberman, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2018 meeting.

Waterfront – Interim Park at 0 King Street

Report on June 21 focus group meeting at City Hall: Report from John Dumsick and Kelly Spradley-Kurowski

John Dumsick opened the discussion. The selected artist for the rotating art installation, Michael Szivos was present at the June 21st focus meeting at City Hall. He will be creating the first installation of the temporary public art which will change seasonally. The overall theme will be “Sight and See”. Project goals will include: highlighting the relationship between the city and water, repeated visitation as new art is installed, and engaging other uses of the site. The project is largely organized by the Office of the Arts. Members of the Archaeological Commission were present at the meeting. John Dumsick felt there was adequate discussion about the importance of incorporating history.

Michael Szivos works with Softlab; a design studio based in New York City. He recently visited; touring various sites and learning the history of Alexandria. He was not aware of the frequent

flooding in Old Town. Fortunately, his installation can reach up to 15 feet high. He wishes to incorporate sunlight/darkness and sight lines such as, Woodrow Wilson bridge, City Hall, and the waterfront. He will also try to relate his artwork to the Torpedo Factory and tall ships. This will be a modern piece with the use of reflective material; not a replica of any historic structures. The next step is to submit his concept to the Art Commission by September. The first installation should be completed by March 2019, hopes are to correlate with the cherry blossoms. In November 2019 the art will be dismantled.

Gretchen Bulova and Al Cox gave a brief overview of the Interim Park layout. The exact location of the art installation has not yet been determined. Martha Harris suggested writing a letter to the artist extending HARC's assistance.

On a motion by Martha Harris, seconded by Linda Lovell, HARC voted and approved the request for John Dumsick to write a letter indicating HARC's willingness to support and assist the artist, Michael Szivos with his public art installation for Interim Park at 0 King Street. Michael Szivos and members of the Arts Commission will receive this letter.

Report on AAC Interim Park History Interpretation Meeting on June 20

Elizabeth McCall gave a brief overview of the AAC Interim Park History Interpretation Meeting on June 20th. An introduction to the interim park was given by Gretchen Bulova and Al Cox. The group was able to visit the site and discuss issues such as; possible uses of the space and locations for structures/installations. Interim Park will connect with the Waterfront Park (where the tall ships and marina will be located.) The parks are meant to be interconnected. Gretchen Bulova inquired about elements the commission would like to see included. With this information she will be able to provide feedback on specifics such as costs and possible implications. Signage and trail markers are examples of historical elements; they would require a CIP. There is a possibility of history installations rotating seasonally like the Art. The discussion will move forward with DPI.

Danny Smith suggested the GW Walking Tour as a possibility for public programming. Gretchen Bulova explained there are four entities involved: Visit Alexandria, OHA, Arts Department, and the National Parks Department. There are no further meetings in the horizon; needs to move forward with City Staff first.

Visit Alexandria Saturday Programming

Gretchen Bulova opened the discussion. OHA will be operating as a new brand, Portside History. Public programming will begin in October (Archaeology Month) for five Saturdays until November. Afterwards, Holiday programming will begin. February will be dedicated to Black History Month and George Washington celebrations. After March when the public art is installed, programs will resume every Saturday for a fifteen-week run. There will be history festivals: Cider Festival, Godspeed & Providence Ships, and the 75th anniversary of D-Day hosted by our Caen, Sister City. All programs must be portable. These programs will be designed as educational activities that appeal to a wide range of people/families. In the beginning, each program will be unique, they will eventually rotate through a series. Martha Harris expressed she would like to provide input towards the development of these programs.

Metro Temporary Closing in Summer of 2019

Gretchen Bulova presented on the temporary closing of Metro in 2019. Earlier in the day she attended a city work group meeting. This was the first meeting of which city staff discussed transportation alternatives. Metro will be closing their Braddock Road, King Street, Van Dorn, and Eisenhower stations from Memorial Day through Labor Day for platform upgrades, track repairs, and new visitor amenities. National Airport Station will remain opened. The work group is creating a formal plan for the public. Some of the alternatives they discussed were: additional bus routes, shuttles, contracted buses, ride share programs, bikes/scooters, and water taxis. Their proposal should be ready by the October Council meeting. City staff voiced concern about residents getting to their jobs, Alexandria's workforce getting into the city, visitors staying in our hotels, and tourism. Linda Lovell announced that the International Conference of the History of Pharmacy will be held in Washington D.C. during this time and the Apothecary Museum has already extended their invitation. The Mortar and Pestle Society is considering paying for their transportation. Steven Stuart suggested collecting data on the number of museum visitors using Metro. Elizabeth McCall asked HARC to consider writing a letter in the future weighing in on the situation after more facts have been collected.

Updates

619 South Lee Street Easement with Department of Historic Resources

Gail Rothrock opened the discussion. The Historic Alexandria Foundation learned of the easement held by the VA Department of Historic Resources on the Hugo Black House at 619 South Lee Street. There have been some amendments to the easement over the years. The new owner, Nigel Morris, has carried out successful restorations. The first submittal in 2014 to the VDHR was turned down. The proposal was approved in October of 2017 but has not been submitted to the BAR.

Al Cox explained that Allen Greenburg, a classical architect worked on the first designs. His ideas were not approved and therefore he was let go. Cunningham Quill Architects, who have completed award winning editions to historic houses in Washington D.C. are now working on the property. Work has already begun: scaffolding, repainting, chimney repair, and replacing the slate roof.

Martha Harris listed the proposed renovations: an edition on the South side of the house, removal of the swimming pool and tennis court, and the addition of a garage on the Franklin Street side.

Alexandria ReNew Combined Sewer Outfall Progress

Danny Smith opened the discussion. Plan B+ was approved, Alexandria ReNew will proceed. They will now begin their outreach program. HARC can wait some time before weighing in on the project.

Combined BARs

Al Cox announced public outreach meetings will be held Monday July 30th at City Hall and September 17th at Charles Houston. Danny Smith and Elizabeth McCall will attend the July 30th meeting, Martha Harris will try to attend.

African American Heritage Trails

Elizabeth McCall opened the discussion. The committee (which meets once a month) is now focused on technological components. The sub committees are working on two trails: an overview trail and one that is connected to the waterfront directly.

The ship committee is focused on preservation and conservation of the ships. They are creating an outreach package and community survey. Ship materials were removed and are being held in water tanks at the bus barn. A portion of the third (largest) ship sits underneath Wolfe Street. The Archaeology Department is waiting until the city works on utilities to remove the ship. There will be no further archaeological work until later in the year.

The Archaeological Commission is planning to start a lecture series, a Sub-committee will be formed.

Equal Justice Initiative Pillar

Waiting to hear from the Equal Justice Initiative regarding the pillar commemorating lynching in Alexandria. HARC will weigh in on this issue once more developments have been made.

Freedom House Museum Grant Award

Gretchen Bulova reported on the \$50,000 planning grant Freedom House Museum was awarded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. There needs to be further conversation with the National Trust before decisions are made about how to use the grant; they do have recommendations. The purpose of the grant is to develop a preservation plan to guide the collaborative efforts of the City and the Northern Virginia Urban League in the expanded interpretation, management and preservation of the Freedom House Museum. Exhibit upgrades include: modifying the main exhibit (located in the basement) and creating new exhibits on the first floor. Gretchen Bulova does not foresee the partnership ending after December.

Ramsey Homes – Materials Retrieved

The Ramsey Homes have been demolished. Al Cox was able to retrieve materials for future interpretation. Al Cox stated he collected three-foot sections of five panels which will be used to recreate corner sections; an exhibit will be made in the future. Copies of the original blueprints have been obtained and the materials have been archived

HARC Member Orientation Materials – Distribute to new Council Members

Laura Lieberman presented on the HARC member orientation packet she is creating. The packet will contain:

- a. A flow chart which will be organized by hierarchy.
- b. Descriptions of the sites.
- c. Maps of the different planning districts.
- d. Social media accounts and contact information for all the sites.
- e. Expectations of HARC members, and contact information for HARC members.

HARC suggested adding:

- a. Application process for new HARC members.
- b. Limit of terms one can serve.
- c. Common issues that are discussed in meetings.

- d. Definitions of commonly used acronyms and terms (BAR process, easement, etc.)
- e. City ordinance for HARC.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports

Advocacy and Preservation

Martha Harris spoke on behalf of Bill Hendrickson who was excused early from the meeting. George Washington Middle School has begun the application process for the National Register of Historic Places. Al Cox explained that they have completed the preliminary registration forms. The property owner must sign before the application is sent to Richmond, VA. GW Middle School is one of the largest examples of Art Deco architecture in the area. Martha Harris proposed that HARC explore the interesting stories and characters of the smaller neighborhoods within the City of Alexandria. Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, who manages the Oral History Program, should be contacted regarding the Living Legends of Alexandria project.

OHA Report

Gretchen Bulova updated HARC on what to expect from OHA this year:

- In the next couple of weeks there will be a nationwide search for Lance Mallamo's replacement (Director of OHA).
- A new performance-based budgeting system.
- Complete the strategic plan.
- Fundraising for the ships, Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, and Freedom House Museum.
- A new year-long liquor license for all sites within the department.
- Legislation regarding funding for African American grave maintenance.
- Restoration of the African American Heritage Park.
- Beautification of the Visitor Center's garden. They were able to raise \$100K for this project.

Commissioner Updates

Laura Lieberman – Lee Fendall House

July 27 – Trivia Nights at Historic Sites.

July 28 – Home-Makeover: 1850s edition. How the house went from Federal to Victorian.

Next Saturday – Special Tour – How the house went from Federal to Victorian.

Selling tickets for annual fundraiser in September, Sips and Secrets: A Speakeasy Night

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

Enough money was raised for the eyemats at the Apothecary Museum. The company who is making these mats is based out of England; they make floor mats and rug coverings that replicate original floors for preservation purposes. The 107 building in the Apothecary will have mats that replicate the original 1804 floors. Earlier in the week, a few plant samples were taken from the drawers in the manufacturing room and sent to the University of Chicago for research. Inside the drawers, markings/paintings were discovered. Further research will be done.

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic Memorial

The LED lighting on the memorial was changed.

A bronze casting of Jean-Antoine Houdon's 1792 sculpture of George Washington was returned to the memorial from the Virginia State House in Richmond. The sculpture is back in its original location; Eastern alcove of the first floor.

John Dumsick – Carlyle House

July 30 - Read, See, Do

Every Monday in July, Carlyle House and Alexandria Library team up for a reading program paired with an activity.

August 5 – Hand on History Tent

This years' theme is Colonial Plants.

September 9 – Outlandish Tea and Fashion Show

Tickets are on sale.

September 29 – Mansion House Whiskey Tasting

Tickets are on sale.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission