

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 18, 2019

PRESENT:

John Dumsick
Jolande Goldberg
Bill Hendrickson
Michael Hobbs
Richard Klingenmaier

Linda Lovell
Paul Mazzuca
Keith Moore
Severiano Ortiz

Deborah Osborne
Danny Smith
Monica St.Dennis
Stephen Stuart

EXCUSED:

Martha Harris
Laura Lieberman
Elizabeth McCall
Maddy McCoy
Gail Rothrock

ABSENT:

Shawn Eyer

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 7:05 p.m. at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for May 21, 2019 Meeting

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Linda Lovell, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2019 meeting with edits.

Small Cell Plans (5G)

The locations of three small cell units have already been determined: One on S. West Street and two on the N. 100 and 200 blocks of Payne Street. Have not been installed yet.

Co-chair Smith has been in correspondence with Richard Lawrence, Special Assistant to the City Manager. Lawrence spoke to the OTCA at their last meeting. Overall, historic districts do not have much say over the design of these units and antennas. HARC should stay updated on advancements.

619 South Lee (Justice Black House)

HAF board has submitted their appeal to the court. In addition, Gail Rothrock and Yvonne Calahan, Vice President of OTCA have signed on as plaintiffs. John Richards from Bogorad and Richards law firm led most of the legal work. Richards invited HARC members to attend and speak at the next VDHR meeting this Thursday, June 20 at Sweet Briar College.

Christ Church Update – Letter to Christ Church

Keith Moore advised HARC send a letter directly to Reverend Doctor Noelle M. York-Simmons. The letter was circulated among HARC members. Purpose of the letter is to alert Christ Church of the guidelines for development along Washington Street. The letter was first provided to Mayor Wilson and City Council. There is an agreement between the City and the National Park Service regarding development along Washington Street in addition to the City's zoning ordinance. It is expected that Christ Church will lease the land currently occupied by Ross to a developer who will likely demolish and rebuild. HARC should reach out to the new developer during the early stages to advise on design and educate on various building requirements.

Added Item: Scooters

Severiano Ortiz was designated the point of contact regarding electric scooters. Ortiz will be tracking this topic and updating HARC. Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations has sent a letter to City Council. The main complaint has been how and where they are parked. City Council has provided phone numbers of the various scooter companies; complaints should be directed to these companies.

Parking Kiosks in Residential Area

St. Paul's Episcopal Church on South Pitt Street has requested a parking kiosk be installed on their block in order to accommodate older members. Aesthetics is the issue; parking kiosks obscure the historic nature of Old Town.

Freedom House Museum Update – Gretchen Bulova

- Joshua Rothman lecture and staff workshop held on May 16 & 17. Both were very successful. The lecture was recorded, Bulova will forward link via email.
- June 19 at 6:00 p.m. - Juneteenth Program at Freedom House Museum. Speakers will give brief remarks at Freedom House. Program will transition to Shiloh Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with keynote speaker, Reverend Barry Black.
- Alexandria City has interest in acquiring Freedom House Museum – 1315 Duke Street.

Equal Justice Initiative

Meeting was pushed back to September. Exact date has not been determined. The Office of Communications felt the public was not given adequate notice of the meeting. Pushing the meeting back will hopefully increase community participation.

HARC Committee Reports

OHA & Planning Support – Linda Lovell

- Severiano Ortiz will join the committee. Will assist with the OHA foundation planning.

Advocacy & Preservation – Michael Hobbs

- Discussed parking kiosks during last meeting, specifically the proposed kiosk for St. Paul's Church. Looking ahead to other historic blocks that may be affected.

Finance – Danny Smith

- Still working on a 501(c)(3) foundation.

OHA Report- Gretchen Bulova

- Closing FY19

- Painted exterior of Friendship Firehouse Museum, Fort Ward will be painted next.
- New floor installed at Archaeology.
- Implementing funding for FY20
 - Gun carriage at Fort Ward
 - Master plan for Murray Dick Fawcett House
 - Documentation for ships.
- Beginning to work on FY21
 - Working on Capital Improvement Budget.

Bill Dickinson wants to see a continued effort towards City Council to continue making investments towards the waterfront. The waterfront should be a distinctive area which incorporates history related elements.

- D-Day Commemoration at new Waterfront Park was successful.
- Portside Festival, Saturday June 22 from 2 – 8 p.m. OHA will lead Portside History – public programs/activities.
- Number of large HAF grants distributed recently:
 - Pilot Virtual Reality Project
 - Archaeology to build backdrop to the ship model.
 - Lee Fendall House towards UV protection on windows.
 - Recognition given to the dentists who purchased and restored Carver School - an example of adaptive reuse.

Initiatives for next year:

- Ships documentation
- Master Plan for Murray Dick Fawcett House
- Freedom House Museum
- Waterfront Interpretation and Planning
- EJI
- Department reorganization
- City Hall – Until July 12, the community is invited to complete a City Hall Visioning Questionnaire. This public survey will help prioritize the different uses for City Hall. The lobby could be used to interpret Alexandria's History.
- Building Preservation and Maintenance
- Interpreting African American history across all sites
- Enhancing Duke Street Corridor interpretation.

Overall, great year for OHA, will share stats in July.

Chairman Smith reminded HARC about elections in September. Smith advised members to start thinking about nominations. Linda Lovell and Laura Liberman are the nomination committee.

Commissioner Updates

Linda Lovell – Mortar and Pestle Society

- Annual meeting of the Mortar & Pestle Society is Monday, June 24 at Lloyd House. Talk will be given by the Director of the DEA Museum. She will speak about the regulations on apothecaries that began in the early 1900s.
- Apothecary floor mats are scheduled to arrive on July 24. The museum will be closed for three days for installation.

Michael Hobbs – OTCA

- Past meeting concerned the Small Cell Plan. Richard Lawrence attended and gave a presentation on the matter.

Jolande Goldberg – Torpedo Factory

- Recently wrapped-up the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Mentorship Program. Every year this program offers an opportunity for high school students to be paired with a Torpedo Factory artist as a mentor. This year, eighteen high school students participated. To conclude the program, students showcase their completed works in an exhibition.

Severiano Ortiz - Alexandria Historical Society

Upcoming Lectures:

- Wednesday, June 26 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. City Archaeologist, Eleanor Breen – The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology.
- Fall 2019 – 2020, slavery focused lectures

John Dumsick – Carlyle House

- Susan Hellman has left her position as Historic Site Manager at Carlyle House to work for the BAR.
- On May 30, Carlyle House has received a replica French and Indian War cannon from the Society of Colonial Wars.
- June 22 – Huzzah Alexandria! Huzzah NOVA Parks! Celebrating Alexandria’s birthday and NOVA Parks 60th anniversary.
- Yoga on Magnolia Terrace. Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. & Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
- Trivia Night – June 28 & July 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Read, See, Do – Monday’s at 2:00 p.m. starting July 9
- June 21 - Friends of Carlyle House annual meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Apasrin Suvanasai – OHA Staff

- Mentioned visitors to Freedom House Museum are interested in other African American Historic sites in the city.

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- Saturday, June 22 between 2 – 2:15 p.m. – tour of George Washington’s Alexandria. Will start at the Torpedo Factory. Tour will last about an hour and half. Will point out locations that are relevant to George Washington.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission