

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

PRESENT:

Carol Black	Linda Lovell	Gail Rothrock
Jolande Goldberg	Paul Mazzuca	Monica St. Dennis
Michael Hobbs	Severiano Ortiz	Stephen Stuart
Sam Hoffman	Deborah Osborne	Stetson Tinkham
Richard Klingenmaier		

EXCUSED:

John Dumsick
Martha Harris
Laura Lieberman
Maddy McCoy
Danny Smith

GUESTS:

Donna DeBlasio
Sean Kumar, NoVa Parks
Michael Nordolilli, NoVa Parks

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Al Cox, BAR
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Lovell at 7:00 p.m. at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for September 17, 2019 Meeting

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Richard Klingenmaier, HARC voted to approve the minutes, with edits, from the September 17, 2019 meeting.

Chairs Update

- Co-Chair Lovell reminded commissioners that HARC is bound by the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, members cannot discuss commission issues prior to the public meeting.
- Linda Lovell and Gail Rothrock attended the latest Vision for City Hall Public Meeting. Gail Rothrock – Presentation is available on City’s website, <https://www.alexandriava.gov/generalservices/info/default.aspx?id=108331#CurrentProjectPhaseTheCityHallVisioningStudy>. Currently three proposed options; all three keep the seat of the government and supporting departments within City Hall. Co-chair Lovell noted that only about 400 people responded to the public survey. Next phase will be a presentation before City Council (date has not been announced.)

Board of Architectural Review Update – Al Cox

- Potomac Yard Metro
 - Lighting – working with NPS to determine how the lighting station will be screened from the George Washington parkway.
 - Exterior finish – rusting steel is a possibility. Would like to match NPS buildings from the 1930s/40s.
- City Council has approved the sale of the lot behind old Misha’s building, between Patrick & Henry Streets. Development will include:
 - New stacked mechanical parking system.
 - Residential propertiesArchaeologists will be present during construction.

Bank of Alexandria Presentation – Michael Nardolilli, Chair, NOVA Parks

- Joined by Sean Kumar, Alexandria Representative, NOVA Parks
- Nordelilli provided a bio:
 - Head of Northern Virginia Conservation Trust – involved with preservation and conservation easements.
- Also, provided a brief history of NOVA Parks.
- NOVA Parks acquired Bank of Alexandria and Carlyle House; both needed rehabilitation. Could not take on both properties. Bank of Alexandria was leased in order to restore the building. Lease expires in 2020.
- Sustainability must be considered.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) – public document, available online.
 - Looking for interest.
 - Prefer a long-term lease (40 years) rather than someone purchasing the building.
 - Included an application to the National Historic Register
 - Must support needs of Carlyle House offices
 - Preservation/conservation is a top priority
 - Seeking further proposals and working with current proposals.
 - Will take HARC letter and other public input into consideration.
 - Easement will include interior; public access will be limited.
 - Franklin & Armfield historical association with bank was not included in the RFP.
 - Carlyle House will not be impacted.
 - Carol Black suggested that regarding preservation, language should be firmer regarding tenant obligations.

Feedback to City Council on Commissions – Subcommittee Appointment

City Council will be reorganizing City Commissions. Co-chairs Lovell and Smith decided to create a subcommittee to redetermine what seats should be included on HARC. Ex. Historic Churches. Richard Klingenmaier will chair this subcommittee. Will distribute questionnaires/plans. Subcommittee meetings will be announced and held publicly.

Justice Black House Comments at the Virginia Board of Historic Resources Meeting – Gail Rothrock

Five members of the Historic Alexandria Foundation Board, as well as former HARC co-chair Elizabeth McCall, attended the meeting on September 19, in Irvington, Virginia. Their intent was to express concern regarding historic easements and their lack of enforcement. Five VDHR board members present. Agenda allotted thirty minutes for public to speak. In short, the Justice Black House case was selected to be heard in a closed session at a separate meeting. Rothrock also reminded HARC that the Justice Black House case will come before the Circuit Court of Alexandria at 2 p.m. on October 23. HARC members are urged to attend for support.

Ramsey House Symposium

Co-chair Lovell gave a brief background of the Ramsey Homes:

- Located on Route 1 North. First public housing for African American defense workers in 1941. Constructed from Fabrete concrete panels (one of the first structures to made from these patented materials.) The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority tore down houses to construct new residential properties. HARC as well as other community members fought for preservation of the site due to significant African American history and architecture.
- Section 106 Process requires that within two years, a symposium must be held. John Dumsick and Co-chair Lovell were elected to join the symposium's panel. First meeting was held on September 27. Co-chair Lovell shared main take-aways from meeting:
 - Symposium & tour will be held on May 1, 2020 during Historic Preservation Month
 - Draft schedule includes: Welcome by City Mayor, Project Overview by City Staff, Overview of Public Housing, Ramsey Homes Project, Genealogy, Architecture and Engineering, Documentation Process, Conclusion by ARHA staff, followed by a site tour. Reception will be held at the Black History Museum.
- Next meeting will be held October 24 at 9:30 p.m. Lloyd House.

HARC Committee Reports

OHA & Planning Support – Nothing to report.

Advocacy & Preservation – Nothing to report.

Finance – Nothing to report.

OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova

- **EJI:** Committee meetings as part of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project are taking place over the next few weeks. Bulova encourages HARC members to join one of the seven committees to learn more about the EJI initiative and to participate in the process. The Committees are as follows (list available at alexandriava.gov/historic):
 - Public Outreach – October 15, 7 p.m., Alexandria Black History Museum
 - Education and Programming – October 29, 7 p.m., Alfred Street Baptist Church
 - Marketing – October 28, 7 p.m., Office of Human Rights
 - Marker and Soil Collection – October 24, 7 p.m., Beth El Hebrew Congregational
 - Research – November 12, 7 p.m., Alexandria Black History Museum

- Fundraising – November 13, 7 p.m., Lloyd House
 - Public Pilgrimage to EJI – December 2, 7 p.m. at Beulah Baptist Church
- The next public meeting will take place Saturday, November 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Lee Center.
- **Freedom House:**
 - Site closed on October 4th & 5th due to water shut-off for non-payment. The water bill has been paid and the site has resumed regular operation.
 - The Washington Post carried an online article as well as a print version in last weekend’s paper about the site being put on the real estate market for \$2.1 million. The article generated significant interest in the site from citizens as well as other outlets.
 - **Budget:**

The FY21 Non Personnel budget (known as current services budget) is being formed and is due this week.

FY20 Supplemental Funds:

 - \$300,000 to document the three ships that are currently stored in water tanks at the city’s former bus barn on S. Quaker Lane. To date, one ship and half of a second ship has been digitally documented.
 - \$35,000 toward restoration projects at Fort Ward were funded. To date, two of those projects have been initiated – the restoration of a gun carriage and the replacement of the wooden deck in front of the gate.
 - \$35,000 for a Master Plan for the Murray Dick Fawcett House – in the procurement process.
 - **Capital Improvements for OHA:**
 - Lloyd House – Patio work, exterior painting, fence renewal, and chimney repairs will begin this week.
 - Gadsby’s and Apothecary – digitally scanned for preservation
 - Archives and Records – An assessment of the building’s HVAC system is being done and the roof will be replaced this Fall.
 - OHA’s Historian is now writing a monthly article for the ZEBRA, in addition to a weekly column in the Alexandria Times.
 - October is Archaeology Month
 - November 23 – 5th Alexandria Cider Festival, 1 to 5 p.m. Please consider volunteering for a shift.

Commissioner Updates

Severiano Ortiz – Alexandria Historical Society

- October 23 @ 7:30 pm – Lecture, “Quarters of Confinement, Yet Places of Community and Culture” by Douglas Sanford

Deborah Osborne – AHRPC

- Working on easement inspections. Also, working on revising all 16/17 easement documents. There has been a decline on new easements for residential properties. Looking into an initiative for Preservation Month to hold an open house meeting/educational session. Will invite residents; hope to shift their views on historic easements.

- Augie’s Mussel Bar on King Street – New windows not in regulation. Al Cox confirmed that BAR is already aware and has notified owner. Windows were not approved by BAR.

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- October 21 – Lecture, “The Cabinetmaker’s Account: John Head’s Record of Craft and Commerce in Colonial Philadelphia, 1718-1753” by Jay Robert Stiefel

Jolande Goldberg – Torpedo Factory Artist Association

- Art Safari, October 19
- Anniversary Ball, November 16

Linda Lovell – Co-chair, Mortar & Pestle Society

- Public meeting regarding scooters in November
- Presentation by Rev. Joseph Thompson from the Virginia Theological Seminary on their acknowledgement of the rental of enslaved individuals and plans for reparations.
- Elizabeth McCall is no longer on the HARC Commission. Thankful for all her contributions.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission