

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

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**PRESENT: not up to date**

Carol Black	Linda Lovell	Gail Rothrock
Danny Smith	Richard Klingenmaier	Maddy McCoy
Martha Harris	Monica St. Dennis	Stetson Tinkham
Michael Hobbs	Severiano Ortiz	Stephen Stuart
Sam Hoffman	Deborah Osborne	

**EXCUSED:**

John Dumsick  
Paul Mazzuca  
Laura Lieberman  
Jolande Goldberg

**GUESTS:**

Diane Ruggiero, Director, Office of the Arts  
Todd Bressi, Consultant for the Office of the Arts  
Meredith McKinley, Consultant for the Office of the Arts

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Al Cox, BAR  
Kristy Huettnner, OHA  
Patricia Washington, Visit Alexandria

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**Approval of Minutes for October 15, 2019 Meeting**

On a motion by Steve Stuart with a second Michael Hobbs, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting.

**Public Art Update- Diane Ruggiero, Director, Office of the Arts**

Diane provided information on the next public art piece for Waterfront Park. The artist is Olalekan (Lek) Jeyifous. Mr. Jeyifous visited with OHA last May and toured most of the OHA sites, including the Freedom House Museum. He has used Alexandria's history (including its importance as a port city) and tradition of African-American quilt-making to create his design.

A Meet-and-Greet at Black History Museum is planned for December 11, 6 to 8 p.m. Members of HARC are invited to attend and meet the artist.

**Virginia Theological Seminary Fund Update, Reverend Joe Thompson**

Reverend Thompson reported on reparations being pursued for the role Virginia's Episcopal Church played in slavery and racism. The church's role included hiring of enslaved laborers from local slave owners for construction work and for tasks to run the seminary, though the

seminary did not personally own any enslaved individuals. Due to this and the lack of the seminary taking a stand against slavery, the seminary will be contacting descendants of enslaved persons who worked on the campus and descendants of people of African descent who worked on the campus during Jim Crow era. Funding will also be allotted towards assisting those of African descent to rise to leadership positions in the Episcopal Church. 75<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Episcopal Church is pushing to gather documentation regarding the economic benefits the Episcopal Church gained via slavery and its direct involvement. Various dioceses, parishes, and seminaries are working together on these efforts- including some public acknowledgements and issuing of apologies for its role in slavery and racism. “Acknowledgement, redress, and closure,” have been recognized as the critical elements to properly provide reparations. This program focuses on the first two of these three elements.

So far, the names of several enslaved persons have been located in documentation, but descendants now need to be located. Numbers are unknown as of yet, but there were many enslaved laborers involved.

Alumni and those who work with the church have so far expressed positive feedback towards the efforts. It is not decided exactly where funds will go- this is still in planning. There are some smaller funds that will go towards more general social justice efforts. jthompson@vts.edu (Rev. Thompson’s email address for any questions HARC may have)

### **Board of Architectural Review Update, Al Cox**

- Potomac Yards Metro Station- still working with design build team; making progress
- *Ross Dress for Less*- new architect says Kensington Assisted Living has a contract and will be running an assisted living facility at that location. **See below for more info.**
- 912 King and 112 S. Henry properties (block behind the old location of *Misha’s*. They now have 90 days to get their entitlements. There will be residential, retail and a parking garage (our first “vending machine” lot).
- Small cell network- no updates.

### **Christ Church Update**

- Christ Church statement regarding Kensington Assisted Living and the development in the location where *Ross Dress for Less* currently sits. Church representatives have discussed, with Kensington, what sort of issues posed challenges with the previous developers—in an effort to avoid such obstacles with Kensington. The Church feels confident that Kensington will be cooperative with the City, the BAR, the Church, and neighbors, etc.

### **West’s Point Recognition**

- Location where Hugh West ran a tobacco warehouse (Warehouse at Hunting Creek) will be the location of an Alexandria Renew outfall. The Chair of Alexandria Renew appears to be receptive to the idea of funding a historical marker at the site. Linda Lovell and Danny Smith will craft a letter, to Alexandria Renew, to request that they work with OHA to create a historic marker.
- On a motion by Michael Hobbs, with a second by Monica St. Dennis, HARC voted to authorize its Co-Chairs to write to Alexandria Renew when they deem appropriate to

urge that agency to work with OHA to create a marker to recognize the historic importance of the site; and to communicate the same interest to the City Council. Motion approved.

### **Open Space Policy Representative for HARC**

- HARC representative is needed to serve on the Open Space Policy Steering Committee. The term would begin January 2020 and continue not longer than December 21, 2022.
- Martha Harris volunteered for the position of representative for this committee. Steve Stuart motioned to approve, Linda seconded. Motion carried.

### **Ramsey Homes Symposium**

- May 15, 2020 is the selected date for the symposium that will focus on the history, architecture, and documentation of the Ramsey Homes.
- The lectures are finalized, and the symposium will include a site tour of the Ramsey Homes and a reception at the Alexandria Black History Museum.
- The next planning meeting will be held in January.

### **Chairs Update**

- Al Cox updated regarding Bank of Alexandria: New lease now; moving forward there will need to be repairs (interior architectural elements of significance, accessibility, outside building repairs). Discussion of easements with organizations that hold historic preservation easement will need to occur.
- Al Cox notified HARC that there will be a hearing regarding use of electric scooters in the City: Dec. 14, 2019.
- Al Cox, street names and statues being reconsidered by General Assembly due to relation to controversial figures. HARC establishing a committee to address the issue is not recommended by Al Cox and others. Members agreed it would be premature as General Assembly has not taken up the issue yet.
- Steve Stuart, HARC holiday gathering this year. He will send recommendations for what to bring and a note to Nicole Quinn that can be sent out as an invite.
- The Elk Lodge at 227 N. Henry Street- Maintenance is required, small membership though very active programs. (Martha Harris provides further updates regarding the Lodge in the Advocacy & Preservation committee report later on).

### **HARC Committee Reports**

OHA & Planning Support, Steve Stuart—This committee could use some additional members, if anyone is interested.

Advocacy & Preservation, Martha Harris

- An Advocacy Committee meeting was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Future meetings will be at *La Madeleine* two Mondays before the HARC meetings.
- This past meeting focused on understanding the history of the Elk's Lodge (with McArthur Myers and Reverend Gibson).

- HARC has been invited to visit the Elk’s Lodge in order to assist in efforts of preservation. Availability of the group was discussed. Martha will contact the Lodge to settle on a date.

Finance – No report.

Strategy Planning Meeting, Gail Rothrock

- Gail Rothrock reported that the next VDHR Board meeting will be December 12 in Richmond. She hopes someone from HARC will be able to attend and speak about the Justice Black House easement terms during the ‘open comments’ section of the agenda.

Richard Kligenmaier- Reported on recent discussions with the City Attorney about the size and composition of HARC.

### **OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova**

- **EJI:** 125 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included a great presentation on Jim Crow era Alexandria by Dr. Krystyn Moon. Committee are meeting and all are encouraged to participate.
- **Freedom House:** Nothing new to report regarding the status of the property.
- **Budget:** FYI 2021 has been submitted. The next step in the budget process is to work in Focus Area Teams to determine priorities.
- **Cider Festival:** 6<sup>th</sup> annual festival will take place rain or shine this Saturday. Volunteers are welcome.

### **Commissioner Updates**

Maddy McCoy- Noted that the African American Trails Committee is continuing to meet monthly. Indy McCall has stepped down from both HARC and the AAC. Krystyn Moon is the committee chair.

Michael Hobbs -

(1) OTCA’s most recent meeting centered on a presentation by the Office of Environmental Quality staff on proposed revisions to Alexandria’s Noise Control Ordinance; the issues are not specific to HARC’s interest in preservation of historic resources, but rather of general application within the City.

(2) The Friends of Carlyle House Board has now also written to NOVA Parks regarding its disposition of the Bank of Alexandria building. The Historic Alexandria Foundation had earlier written to NOVA Parks and HARC had written to the Mayor and City Council on the subject.”

Monica St. Dennis—Parking has been increased outside the City’s Archives and Records Center. With the addition of ALIVE to the archives complex, parking has become a challenge.

Deborah Osborne – AHRPC is conducting easement reviews this fall.

Gail Rothrock – HAF is holding its annual fundraiser on Saturday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Athenaeum. Tickets are \$100 and support grants to the historic properties in Alexandria. The catalog will feature the history of the Bank of Alexandria building.

Patricia Washington- Visit Alexandria is promoting Alexandria this holiday season as “less hustle-and-bustle”; tree lighting this coming Saturday, Nov 23; website includes many old Alexandria traditions and new activities this year.

Danny Smith- Christmas Carol production at the Little Theatre of Alexandria will benefit Gadsby’s Tavern Museum on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets on sale for \$25 and include a reception.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristy Huettner, OHA Staff to the Commission