

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 21, 2019

PRESENT:

Carol Black	Linda Lovell	Monica St. Dennis
Jolande Goldberg	Paul Mazzuca	Stephen Stuart
Martha Harris	Maddy McCoy	Herbert Stetson-Tinkham
Michael Hobbs	Severiano Ortiz	Ivy Whitlach
Sam Hoffman	Gail Rothrock	
Richard Klingenmaier	Danny Smith	

EXCUSED:

John Dumsick
Laura Lieberman
Deborah Osborne

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Eleanor Breen, OHA
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 December 17, 2019 Meeting

On a motion by, Martha Harris seconded by Steve Stuart, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting.

Chairs Update

- Co-Chair Lovell introduced new HARC member, Ivy Whitlach from the Archaeological Commission.
- Board & Commission Chair's Meeting/Workshop
 - Freedom of Information Act was discussed.
 - Three or more HARC members cannot congregate at public events and speak about HARC related matters.
- Solar panels on historic buildings will be put on February's agenda.

Historic Ship Timbers Stabilization Plan – Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist

Presentation included:

- Overview of Alexandria Archaeology Department
- Background on Waterfront Archaeology Excavations

- “banking out” explained
 - Ships date back to 1700s/early 1800s
- Update on Ship from Hotel Indigo Site
 - Timbers dismantled and conserved in water tanks
 - Timbers sent to Texas A&M for conservation and 3D scanning.
 - 3D model on display at Alexandria Archaeology Museum
 - Timbers will be returned, reconstructed and exhibited.
- Update on Ships from Robinson Terminal South Site
 - Three 18th century ships excavated (1,000 + timbers)
 - Currently being preserved in nine pools of water.
- Phase 1 (ongoing since FY19) - Stabilization
- Phase 2 (FY20) – Documentation
- Phase 3 (TBD) – Storage & Selective Conservation
 - Current preferred option: Ben Brenman Pond (man-made storm water pond)
 - Medium-term storage option (5-25 years) that preserves the possibility of future study and/or conservation
 - Ships will sit at the bottom of pond on geotextile and weighted down.
 - Divers will check every five years
 - Benefits:
 - Ease of access
 - Potential damage to artifacts can be preemptively mitigated and monitored
 - Low likelihood to affect water quality
 - Lower long-term cost
 - Less city-resource intensive
- Immediate Next Steps
 - Pending funding
 - Development of 3 interpretive signs
- Future Steps
 - Site interpretation
 - Implement monitoring schedule
 - Reassessment in 20 years

Freedom House – Purchase and Future – Gretchen Bulova

- Agreement with NVUL for the City to purchase the site was reached on December 30, 2019
- Approval for the sale needs to go before the Planning Commission (Feb 4) and City Council (February 11)
- Fundraising has begun. Meeting with donors and applying for grants.
- Governor’s budget has \$2.44M for the restoration and interpretation of Freedom House
- In February, the site will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Elks Lodge Visit – Martha Harris

Group visit (about 10 HARC members) to Elks Lodge on January 11. Elk brothers gave brief history of the organization, a tour of the facility, and led a general discussion. Martha Harris suggests meeting with Elks to discuss their needs and possible collaboration. HARC could assist with strategic planning, preservation, programs, oral history, and architectural drawings. Need to

determine what the Elks priorities are. Elks Lodge should be nominated as a historic/endangered site.

Committee Report

Richard Klingenmaier

- Attended the Boards & Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
- Unclear how many boards and commissions have bylaws.
- Waiting period of 1 year after 10 years of serving on a commission
- HARC was commended for regularly submitting Annual Reports
- More diversity is needed.

OHA & Planning Support – Nothing to report.

Advocacy & Preservation – Will meet on February 10, 10 a.m. at La Madeline.

Finance – Nothing to report.

Open Space – First meeting in February. Martha Harris asked for a co-chair.

OHA Report

- Funds have been raised to conserve the 1858 Prettyman Hose Reel at the Friendship Firehouse Museum. A formal send-off party is planned for February 1, 12:30 – 2 p.m.
- Two new positions for OHA: Admin Director (position closed, hoping to have someone on board by March), temporary (2 year) Waterfront Historian
- Gretchen Bulova presenting the results of the chocolate research, supported by a \$10,000 grant from Mars Confectionary. The conference will be in Philadelphia at the end of January.
- Archaeology staff presented at Urban Archaeology Conference in Boston in early January, “Down by the Water”. They participated in panels about waterfront archaeology and the ships were featured prominently.
- Black History Month and GW events in February. Followed by events and specialty tours in March to celebrate women’s history month.
- Slowly restoring the gun carriages at Fort Ward, moving from wood to metal. The second gun carriage arrived and was put in place last week. Requesting City CIP funds for the third.
- Revising Records Management training program and will be implementing a proactive program that starts with educating Department Heads on the importance of good records management.
- FY20 CIP work continues for historic buildings. Major interior improvements at the Watson Reading Room are nearing completion and the exterior of Lloyd House is finished. In the next few months work will begin on the interior of Lloyd House, interior of the Black History Museum, and interior of the Lyceum. The studies and assessments at the Archives and Records Center and Gadsby’s Tavern Museum continue.

Commissioner Updates

Linda Lovell

- Third Annual Athenaeum Civil War Lecture Series – January 23, February 27, and March 26

- Veterans Curation Program Meet and Greet – January 23

Danny Smith

- George Washington's Alexandria Walking Tours – recurring weekly, Sundays until February 23

Ivy Whitlach

- Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer Party
 - reached 6,100 volunteer hours
 - recognized interns, Andrew and Joey, who have been researching the waterfront's history.

Gail Rothrock

- National Preservation Institute – Distributed pamphlet of 2020 Professional Training Seminars in Historic Preservation & Cultural Resource Management

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

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission