

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

PRESENT:

Carol Black	Linda Lovell	Danny Smith
Jolande Goldberg	Maddy McCoy	Stephen Stuart
Michael Hobbs	Severiano Ortiz	Monica St. Dennis
Sam Hoffman	Deborah Osborne	Stetson Tinkham
Richard Klingenmaier	Gail Rothrock	Ivy Whitlatch
Laura Lieberman		

EXCUSED:

John Dumsick
Martha Harris

ABSENT:

Paul Mazzuca

GUESTS:

Richard Green
Chris Milko
Martha Raymond

CITY STAFF:

Bill Conkey, BAR
Al Cox, BAR
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Danny Smith at 7:07 p.m. at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2020 Meeting

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Maddy McCoy, HARC voted to approve the minutes as amended from the January 21, 2020 meeting.

Chairs Update

Al Cox announced his retirement from his position as Historic Preservation Manager with the BAR. Co-chairs Smith and Lovell thanked Cox on behalf of HARC for his years of service to Alexandria and his contributions to the commission.

HARC Committee Reports

HARC Composition & Membership – Richard Klingenmaier

Director of the Athenaeum will consider appointing someone to fill their seat on HARC.

OHA & Planning Support – Stephen Stuart

Nothing to report

Advocacy & Preservation – Gail Rothrock

Meeting held at Elks Lodge on February 8. Reverend Gibson spoke on behalf of the Elks, stating that they would like to sustain the legacy of the lodge as a hub of social activity and expand

services to the community. Challenges and maintenance needs were shared. Short term actions were discussed and include the following:

- Nominate Elks Lodge as an Endangered Place with the National Trust of Historic Preservation.
- Grant submissions
- Spring2Action

Next meeting will be held on March 14 at Elks Lodge.

HARC Rep Reports

Ramsey Homes

Linda Lovell gave a brief background and summary of the Ramsey Homes development. The Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority (ARHA) is required by Section 106 to hold a symposium on May 15, 2020 at Charles Houston Rec Center. Multiple speakers will give talks on the following topics: Overview of Public Housing, Ramsey Homes Project, Genealogy, Architecture and Engineering, and the Documentation Process. Reception will follow at the Alexandria Black History Museum, ending with a site walking tour.

Al Cox – Resignation and Replacement

The position of Historic Preservation Manager and Architect will be split into two positions following Al Cox's retirement:

Susan Hellman, Principle Preservation Planner

Bill Conkey, Historic Preservation Architect

Presentation on Regulations Governing Solar Collectors in Historic Districts by Al Cox

Al Cox begins by calling attention to the Roger K. Lewis article, "Want solar panels on your historic home? Expect lots of road blocks" published in the Washington Post on February 13, 2020.

Al Cox distributed the 1992 City of Alexandria Design Guidelines on Solar Collectors.

Pertaining to historic districts:

- Solar collectors cannot exceed the established building height limitation.
- Collectors on flat roofs should be mounted behind a building parapet below the line of sight from a public way.
- Collectors on sloped roofs should be mounted flat on the surface and at the same pitch. The frame, hardware and pipes should be painted to match the color of the roof.

Guidelines:

- Roof mounted solar collectors should be located on the most visually inconspicuous area of a structure consistent with the requirements of maximum access to the sun.
- Photovoltaic solar collectors should be as small as possible consistent with operational requirements.
- Solar collectors should be mounted at an angle which is as close to the adjacent roof slope as possible.
- The trimwork on solar collectors should be painted to match the predominant color of the roof material to limit visibility.
- Ground mounted solar collectors should be screened as much as possible by an earth berm or with low shrubs or other planting materials.

Cox assures that it is not as difficult for homeowners to install solar collectors as Roger K. Lewis states in his article. It is a case-by-case issue that requires the careful consideration of individual properties.

Example 1: 211 S. Saint Asaph

Have installed or in the process of installing Tesla solar panels on the back of the building, west facing slope. They are not visible from street view.

Example 2: Red brick row house. 1940s post WWII. Flat roof with parapets. These buildings have been used to test solar panel collectors and have been administratively approved by BAR. Because of the parapet, the collectors are not visible from street view.

Example 3: 203 S. West Street – modern late 1970s/80s row house. Dormers were located on the back side of the house preventing solar collectors to be installed. Because property sits back from the street and behind other houses, BAR allowed solar panels to be installed on the front of the house.

Example 4: 100 Quay Street. Because this was a modern home, BAR permitted owners to remove slate shingles and replace with simulated shingles in order to mount racks for solar panels. The black panels are hardly visible.

Liberty Gas Station on N. Washington Street

Building was a colonial revival red brick building. Building has been remodeled and does not comply with the 1929 agreement with federal government to maintain the memorial character of George Washington Parkway. New building now has a cupola, side gable roof, slate shingles, new paint, and other architectural changes. Will be an appeal to City Council.

OHA Report

February 1st – Hose Reel was sent off for conservation

FY21 budget is now public and open for comment. The budget includes:

- Maintenance funds for 517 Prince Street and 1315 Duke Street
Increasing a part time archaeology position to full-time
- An additional full-time position for Freedom House

Commissioner Updates

Ivy Whitlatch

- Still in the process of scanning ship timbers. Texas A&M will be arriving on the last week of March or the beginning of April.
- Eleanor Breen is working with the Cameron Street Community Association. Could potentially invite nearby elementary school students to observe the process of submerging ship timbers in Ben Brenman Pond.
- Archaeology is interested in participating in the Open Space Committee discussion. Martha Harris is the HARC representative on the Open Space Committee. Next meeting will be held on March 5 at 7 p.m.

Stetson Tinkham

- Christ Church and Kensington have struck a deal. Have been talking with BAR staff. Mostly still confidential. More details to come.

Maddy McCoy

African American Heritage Trail Commission (Alexandria Archaeology):

- Finished North Waterfront Trail

- Will be testing tours. Looking at a June launch.
- Now moving to the southern portion of the Waterfront.

Equal Justice Initiative and Steering Committee:

- McCoy, head of research committee. Looking into the lynching of two men, Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas
- Joseph McCoy was lynched on April 23, 1897 at the southeast corner of Lee and Cameron Street and Benjamin Thomas was lynched on August 8, 1899 on the southeast corner of S. Fairfax and King Street.
- The EJI will be a 3-5 year program involving community engagement.
- Initial research complete
- Will report findings on Sunday, February 23 and McCoy will conduct a tour in front of Carlyle House.
- Memorialization on April 23rd – shutdown intersection of Cameron and Lee followed by a program to memorialize Joseph McCoy.

Next phase is to research the descendants of the victims and those responsible for the lynching. Have identified 90 Alexandrians who are complicit with the first incident.

Jolande Goldberg

- Torpedo Factory Artist Association (TFAA) feels under attack by the city.
- Artist leases will expire on September 1st.
- TFAA is concerned about the new juried artist selection process, the first floor renovations and how the building will be used.

Gail Rothrock

- Justice Black House – appeal to Virginia Supreme Court went through.

Carol Black

- Asked about music performers along King Street. Feels their music was a distraction on the George Washington's Alexandria Walking Tour. Al Cox explained there is a noise ordinance, but it is difficult to enforce.

Deborah Osborne

- NVUL is looking for board members.
- Discussion on planning a public outreach event to talk about easements on properties.

Laura Lieberman

- Easter Egg Hunt planned
- New Executive Director, Martha Withers

Linda Lovell

- In the process of setting-up a foundation for Kathleen Marie Kelly who passed away this past December. Kathleen was a volunteer in the Historic Alexandria community for over 40 years. She was among the founders of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society Friends and Mortar & Pestle Society. Her memorial fund will be used for cultural activities and historic preservation.

- May 21 – Preservation of Carlyle House: What if we could do it over?
- Murray Dick Fawcett House will open in May

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission