

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

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**PRESENT:**

Carol Black	Laura Lieberman	Gail Rothrock
Rosemarie Esber	Linda Lovell	Danny Smith
Martha Harris	Maddy McCoy	Monica St. Dennis
Michael Hobbs	Severiano Ortiz	Steve Stuart
Sam Hoffman	Deborah Osborne	Stetson Tinkham
Richard Klingenmaier	Martha Raymond	Ivy Whitlach

**ATTENDEES:**

Shawn Eyer  
Andrea Tracey

**EXCUSED:**

Paul Mazzuca

**ABSENT:**

Christopher Brownlowe

**GUESTS:**

Melissa Bennet  
Juliana Henkle

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Bill Conkey, Planning  
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Linda Lovell at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

**Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice**

Tonight's virtual meeting via Zoom is being recorded.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the October 20, 2020 meeting of the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Sections 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King

Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the link or phone number posted on the City calendar. Public comment WILL be received at the meeting by stating name and comment. Questions can be submitted to the committee through the Q&A feature on Zoom. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the [alexandriava.gov/historic](http://alexandriava.gov/historic) webpage. Zoom is compatible with assistive technologies such as screen readers and keyboard shortcuts.

### **Welcome**

Condolences are given for the loss of Joe Shumard. Joe was the Chair of the George Washington Birthright Committee, President of Friendship Firehouse Friends Group, and one of the creators of First Night. Overall, his passing is a huge loss to the City of Alexandria.

Andrea Tracey, Director of Carlyle House, has applied to City Council as a member of HARC. Shawn Eyer representing the George Washington Masonic Memorial is welcomed back to HARC (waiting for official confirmation.)

### **Approval of Minutes for September 15, 2020**

On a motion by, Steve Stuart seconded by Sam Hoffman, HARC voted to approve the minutes with edits from the September 15, 2020 meeting.

### **Chairs Update**

Co-Chair Smith – HARC committees must have four members. Asks members to consider volunteering for a committee.

Co-Chair Lovell – Vacancies on the commission must be filled. Existing members of the Society for the Preservation of Black History do not wish to sit on the commission at this time. Have reached out to City Council members and the city's new diversity officer for recommendations on members to HARC.

### **Elections of Officers for FY 2021**

Maddy McCoy presented slate for HARC Officers, FY 2021

**Co-Chairs:** Linda Lovell and Danny Smith

**Secretary:** Steve Stuart

No other nominations were received.

On a motion by, Maddy McCoy seconded by Deborah Osborne, HARC accepted slate by acclamation for FY 2021 Officers.

### **Old Business**

#### **River Renew – Ivy Whitlach**

Currently, no slot for preservation community on the stakeholder's group. Whitlach has applied and is waiting for approval.

RTN Demo Tour video (<https://vimeo.com/459145569>). Video explains the following:

- CSO 1 (end of Pendleton overlooking Oronoco Bay)
- Reason for demolition of Robinson Terminal North as well as brief history of site
- Overview of 3 locations in the system including tunnel at River Renew.

Boring will occur at River Renew facility and boring tunnels will occur at CSO 2 & 3. Archaeology will be included whenever ground is disturbed.

CSO 1 (7 ft. wide shaft, 10-12 ft. tunnel) – Archaeological findings likely

CSO 2 & 3 – Not as likely

Path of tunnels (skirting the Potomac and turning at Jones Point) was deliberate, in order to minimize disruption to historic district.

### Virtual Ramsey Homes Symposium – Co-Chair Lovell

Opened with brief history of Ramsey Homes. Symposium was scheduled to take place this past May. Virtual symposium will take place February 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Will be free of charge, but attendees must register. There will be several talks on public housing, genealogy of residents, and the fab-crete construction process. Event will end with a virtual tour of the new facility.

### Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee – Martha Harris, Chair

Heritage Apartments

Michael Hobbs and Martha Raymond drafted a letter to the Board of Architectural Review, which was circulated to HARC members via email prior to meeting.

Carol Black advised that the phrase, “urban renewal” be avoided, as well as any connection to the appeal of the demolition permit. Also, letter could be shortened, saving greater detail for a situation where further testimony is needed.

Ivy Whitlach proposed that HARC has a unique position concerning properties adjacent to historic districts therefore, HARC should make a case regarding boundaries and perimeters of historic districts. Posed the question, how can HARC put this in front of the planning commission as much as BAR?

### Board of Architectural Review Update – William Conkey

Heritage Apartments Continued -

Currently in the Concept Review phase – a voluntary, non-binding process for large development projects. Created to give early feedback on mass, scale, height, and general architecture. Next phase goes to Planning Commission, then City Council. Final phase goes back to BAR for the Certificate of Appropriateness which is binding and necessary. Next BAR meeting will be held on October 21 for the third concept review. Current plan addresses broad architectural character, and design intent. Developers have reconfigured massing – moved taller parts of the building away from the historic district. Conkey referenced the city’s Housing Master Plan which addresses affordability. Two of the nine blocks envisioned in this plan are located in the historic districts. Still in the early phases of the project.

Conkey recommends HARC submit their letter to the BAR by mid-day October 21. Board members will be able to view letter before meeting. There will be a public comment segment during the meeting – a representative should use this as an opportunity to highlight points. The unified voice of HARC has weight. Stressed again that the project is still in the concept review

phase and there will be more opportunities to weigh in on issues. Confirmed the project will set a precedent.

On a motion by, Danny Smith seconded by Martha Harris, HARC voted via Zoom Poll to submit the *Heritage at Old Town* letter to the BAR after editing, along with Smith's verbal statement at the October 21, BAR meeting.

Hobbs thanks OHA and Visit Alexandria for the *Courageous Journey – A Guide to Alexandria's African American History* pamphlet, which he referenced when writing the letter.

#### Town Hotel – William Conkey

Will be moving historic house approximately 19 feet over. Wolfe House & Building Movers, LLC. will be working on this project. There has been some demolition to the house due to compromised structural issues.

#### **OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova**

- Budget planning for FY22 (10% reduction scenario)
- Temporary Waterfront Historian, Abby Schreiber, to document the chain of title for all properties between the waterfront and Lee Street, between Prince and Queen Streets. This will help us determine potential archaeological concerns as the City plans their flooding remediation.
- Freedom House Update
  - a. OHA has been included as a member of the International Sites of Conscience
  - b. State funding approved by the General Assembly, awaiting signature by the Governor
  - c. HSR – final section being made
  - d. Master Plan – should go to bid in November
  - e. Completing the chain of title for the property and a history of the site
- African American Heritage Trail has received rave reviews and lots of press
- Loving marker installed. Sadly, Bernie Cohen passed away last Monday October 12, 2020.
- Parker Gray 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary - bricks are being sold and there will be a ceremony to unveil the Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway at a dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 24, from 2 to 3 p.m., at Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.).
- Roof repairs have started at Fort Ward - will notice protective site fencing when driving by
- The Lyceum interior will be repainted in November - site will close on Nov 2 through end of 2020. The Apothecary Museum will open in its place. Both Gadsby's and the Apothecary will open on Mondays until public schools resume in person classes to provide field trip opportunities for local families.
- Bulova received Gov. appointment to State Revolution 250 Commission, 2026 anniversary
- Reeder's House – working to replace roof and digitally documenting house.

## **Commissioner Updates**

### **Rosemarie Esber – Planning District I**

African American Heritage Park – several historical markers around Marriot Hotel need to be cleaned/replaced. Waterway is dirty and flooding. Walkways are damaged.

### **Martha Harris – Historic Property Volunteer**

Open Space – Next public meeting will take place October 28<sup>th</sup>. Currently researching how other cities define open space (lots of differences.) Will circulate a list of open spaces (public and semi-public.)

### **Laura Lieberman – Lee Fendall House**

See full list of events: [http://www.leefendallhouse.org/?page\\_id=28](http://www.leefendallhouse.org/?page_id=28) (walking tours, Homeschool Day, Ghost Tours, and Fall Frolic)

All events are checked by Health Department. Garden is open.

### **Maddy McCoy – Planning District II**

- African American Heritage Trail – African American Heritage Trail Map (northern portion) is complete. Will now be working on the southern portion of the trail.
- EJI – Steering Committee will meet October 21.

### **Severiano Ortiz – Alexandria Historical Society**

Virtual Lecture – Military Housing in Alexandria by Ryan Reft, historian at the Library of Congress. October 28, 7:30 p.m.

### **Martha Raymond – Planning District II**

Hooffs Run Watershed – Cleaning of drainage channels has been moved up to a 4 to 6 month window.

### **Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation**

Justice Black House - Supreme Court of Virginia has agreed to take on HAF's appeal of the City of Alexandria's decision. Circuit court erred: a) in holding that the HAF had standing to sue b) City Council did not have to consider the Open Space Land Act.

### **Monica St. Dennis – Public Records Advisory Commission**

Resumed meeting virtually. Currently two vacancies on the commission – asks HARC to spread word.

### **Steve Stuart – Planning District III**

Will begin planning virtual Holiday party for HARC.

### **Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House**

- Museum is open on a modified schedule. See full list of events: <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events> (series of mourning

tours on Friday nights acknowledging John Carlyle's passing, T-Rex Meet-Up, walking tours, and specialty tours (architecture and enslaved people.)

- BAR has approved the Bank of Alexandria building application. It is a well thought out packet which includes repairs.

#### **Ivy Whitlach – Alexandria Archaeological Commission**

- City released its Accountability and Sustainability Report for the Torpedo Factory. The Third floor will be used for meeting and auditorium space.
- Article written in Zebra about gentlemen who dig privies and sell findings.

<https://thezebra.org/2020/10/05/discovering-alexandrias-untold-history-one-privy-at-a-time/>

Has been working with Eleanor Breen about this issue. Has sent letter to the editor requesting Zebra to discourage private digging of privies for selling purposes.

#### **Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society**

Callie Stapp, Curator of Collections for the Apothecary and Gadsby's Tavern is arranging a virtual meeting of Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary descendants (about 100 people.)

#### **Public Comments**

None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA staff to the commission