

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, April 20, 2021

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**PRESENT:**

Carol Black  
Shawn Eyer  
Martha Harris  
Michael Hobbs  
Sam Hoffman  
Richard Klingenmaier  
Laura Lieberman

Linda Lovell  
Paul Mazzuca  
Severiano Ortiz  
Deborah Osborne  
Martha Raymond  
Gail Rothrock

Danny Smith  
Monica St. Dennis  
Steve Stuart  
Stetson Tinkham  
Andrea Tracey  
Ivy Whitlach

**EXCUSED:**

**ABSENT:**

Christopher Brownlowe  
Rosemarie Esber

**GUESTS:**

**CITY STAFF:**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Linda Lovell at 7:00 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 April 20, 2021 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 Commission and City staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, as a determination has been made that it is not safe enough to be held in person at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access is provided. 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.

### **Approval of Minutes for March 16, 2021**

On a motion by, Ivy Whitlach seconded by Richard Klingenmaier, HARC voted to approve the minutes with edits from the March 16, 2021 meeting.

### **Chairs Update**

#### **Upcoming HARC Commission Elections –**

- Will be held during July or August meeting.
- Can vote for a single chair with a vice chair or two co-chairs.
- Laura Lieberman will head the nominating committee.

### **New Business**

#### **HARC Commission Composition**

- Gretchen Bulova gave a brief overview: In the past, under Elizabeth McCall's leadership, a formal request was made to the City Clerk for guidance on how to make changes to HARC'S composition. City Council formed a committee to look at City commission compositions, their utility within city, and other topics. Richard Klingenmaier has been attending these meetings, representing HARC. Received notice that the City is ready for commissions to submit any proposed changes; changes could be in regard to their mission, composition, etc.
- Gail Rothrock reminds HARC that there was discussion about only having one representative from each Planning District. Also, requests HARC's charter be distributed among members.
- Carol Black, concerned that HARC spends too much time on administrative issues during meetings and not enough time is dedicated to individual Commissioner reports.
- Richard Klingenmaier will hold a meeting to discuss and propose changes to HARC's charter. Recommendations will be brought to the next HARC meeting.

#### **Appointing Representative to the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project**

Need a new representative, to replace Maddy McCoy.

#### **Work Session with Planning Department Staff**

- Gretchen Bulova initiated conversation with Planning Director Karl Moritz, on behalf of HARC, to discuss the importance of historic preservation in future development in the City. Improving communication on development projects that impact historic preservation is a primary concern.
- Bulova will work with Planning Department staff to see if they can create a presentation for HARC, possibly for the June meeting.

### **OHA Deaccessioning Request**

- Each of OHA's eight museums has a collections management policy and HARC plays an advisory role to City Council in the deaccessioning of collections.
- Bulova explained the process: Sites will make their recommendation, collections committee will form and meet, director will weigh in, and a recommendation will be made to City Council. HARC as well as the City Attorney's Office also make recommendations to City Council. Ultimately, City Council makes the decision about whether an item is removed from a museum's collection.
- Deaccessioning is a long process.
- A request from a local organization has been made to deaccession an object.
- By May meeting, OHA hopes to bring a deaccessioning proposal to HARC. Will make sure memo is distributed prior to meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **TFAC Vibrancy Study (Ivy Whitlach)**

- No new updates.

#### **River Farm Update**

- Fairfax County, Department of Planning and Development – Board of Supervisors passed the decision to create a Historic Overlay District on the River Farm property.
- Will now go to Fairfax County Architectural Review Board (ARB) on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **506 N. Overlook Update (Danny Smith)**

- Owner wants to subdivide the property, will require demolition of the existing structure.
- Planning Commission approved the project under the condition there will be a detailed assessment of the property to determine historical significance.
- House not on the 100-Year-Old Building list – BAR has no purview over the matter.
- Suggestion was made to create a HARC subcommittee with the purpose of: 1) encouraging property owners to apply for the 100 Year Old Building list. 2) modify the property subdivision process

#### **Masonic Memorial Revised Traffic Pattern (Shawn Eyer)**

- Eyer provided overview and context of the ongoing situation.
- City Council approved the access road to become a one-way street. Has been a discussion for about six years.
- Original architectural design was never completed. GW Memorial have plans to see the original plan realized as part of a restoration effort.
- City Council decided that the access road to the memorial will not be secondary. Discussion will continue.
- The shape of the circle will change with construction.

#### **Justice Black House Update (Gail Rothrock)**

The Supreme Court hearing on the Justice Black House will take place Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> between 9 – 10 am. Will circulate link.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Advocacy Committee – Martha Harris, Chair**

- HARC members are welcome to bring any issues (i.e. GW Memorial traffic circle) to the attention of the Advocacy Committee.
- Helpful if able to meet in advance of these city public meetings where decisions are made.
- Martha Raymond has agreed to help with the responsibility of chairmanship for the committee.

#### **OHA Support Committee – Steve Stuart, Chair**

- Thanked Stetson Tinkham and Carol Black for joining the committee.

### **Board of Architectural Review Update – Bill Conkey**

#### **101 Duke Street Project**

- Coming back to the BAR for 3<sup>rd</sup> concept review, hopefully by mid-May.

#### **Town Motel**

- Work continues on the basement level. Historic house will move once basement level is complete.

#### **Liberty Gas Station**

- Work has begun – currently half unpainted.

#### **Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) Training**

- Training for BAR.
- Through a grant, Susan Hellman was able to obtain funding for the professional training.
- Takes course over two days: May 14<sup>th</sup> (morning) and May 20<sup>th</sup> (afternoon.)
- There is additional space for one HARC member to attend. Danny Smith volunteered to attend training on behalf of HARC.

### **OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova**

- Four Museums now open with COVID-19 protocols in place. Virtual programs and educational content continue and is available at [alexandriava.gov/historic](http://alexandriava.gov/historic).
- Friendship Firehouse will be open once a month. Anticipating the hose reel to return from conservation on June 5th.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
  - Remembrance Weekend. Anniversary of the lynching of Joseph McCoy on April 23, 1897.
  - Marker Dedication at lynching location - corner of N. Lee and Cameron Streets this April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
  - Illuminating City Hall. GW Memorial will also be illuminated in purple.

- Susan Strasser Lecture on Lynching at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Free
- Historic Preservation Month Programming – Number of great events coming up: lectures, panel discussions, and specialty tours.
- Joshua Rothman lecture about slave dealers Franklin and Armfield on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Free.
- Freedom House Update
  - Elevator work nearing completion.
- Spring2Action has started. Early giving opened April 14 and the event day is April 28th.

### **Commissioner Updates**

#### **Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House**

- Will give update on Elks Lodge next meeting in May.

#### **Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic Memorial**

- Lighting the memorial purple on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> in remembrance of Joseph McCoy.

#### **Sam Hoffman**

- GenOn Power Plant - 2<sup>nd</sup> community meeting on Thursday, April 29. Will attend and give report next meeting.

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

- Specialty tours in partnership with Carlyle House for Preservation Month about architectural history.

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

- Held Annual Member Meeting. Passed by-laws and articles. Minutes have been posted on website.
- Last event, virtual lecture with Ebony Davis on March 24th – over 100 attendees.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> lecture with Mark Livingston – Jewish History of Old Town, Alexandria

#### **Deborah Osborne – AHRPC**

- AHRPC board renewal is pending.
- Property owner is looking into an interior easement.

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

- Submitting article about HARC in Rosemont Citizens Association newsletter.
- Will ask the same of Del Ray Citizens Association.
- Will continue outreach in Planning District II.

#### **Danny Smith**

- Asked by Alexandria Times to write an article about historic preservation. Article focuses on protections for historic properties in historic districts and the 100 Year Old Building list.
- Thanked Gail Rothrock and Susan Hellman for reviewing the article. Should be published within the next week.

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

- Vacancies on commission.

**Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House**

- New HVAC system currently being installed.
- Preservation Month – various specialty tours in partnership with Lee-Fendall House.
- Mother’s Day Tea in partnership with Firehook Bakery and Tea and Spice Exchange.

**Ivy Whitlach – Alexandria Archaeological Commission**

- Archaeology has been advocating for the Waterfront Museum Study proposed in the FY22 CIP
- Recent Texas A&M Lecture – Shared picture from lecture of digital representations of all four ships that were excavated. Texas A&M is in the process of conserving ship timbers.
- Hotel Indigo ship will be conserved in entirety and brought back to Alexandria.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA staff to the commission