

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

PRESENT:

Carol Black
Rosemarie Esber
Mark Farkus
Martha Harris
Michael Hobbs

Sam Hoffman
Richard Klingenmaier
Linda Lovell
Deborah Osborne
Martha Raymond

Gail Rothrock
Danny Smith
Tom Soule
Monica St. Dennis
Andrea Tracey

EXCUSED:

Laura Lieberman
Steve Stuart
Catherine Weinraub
Ivy Whitlatch

ABSENT:

Shawn Eyer

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
William Conkey, Planning and Zoning
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:08 p.m. at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street

Approval of Minutes for October 19, 2021

On a motion by, Michael Hobbs seconded by Tom Soule, HARC voted to approve the minutes with edits from the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Chairs Update

- Welcome to new member, Mark Farkus, representing District II
- Planning Department Presentation – Chair Smith noted that the Planning Department provided an excellent description of their process related to historic preservation. However, review of their inventory of projects revealed that it is difficult to understand. Bill Conkey agreed to provide additional guidance.
- Planning Commission Meeting in regards to the permanent closure of 100 block of King Street – HARC is concerned with the unattended consequences of the 100 block of Prince

Street. Council stated the issue can be addressed later on, after the initial ordinance change. We will need to follow-up at a later time.

Commissioner Updates

Martha Harris – Volunteer at Carlyle House

- Open Space Committee: Circulated the “Public Accessible Open Space” draft.
 - Discussing potential changes to ordinance which will improve Parks and Recreation operations.
- Working on increasing productivity and ensuring citizens have access to open space.
- Next virtual meeting on December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Deborah Osborne – AHRPC

- Continuing easement inspections (primarily external.)
- 609 Oronoco Street - private owner has been interested in an interior easement. Trying to find more information about tax incentives for interior easements.
- Educational tour of representative historic properties of different time periods on November 20th with Al Cox.
- Many properties are in deteriorating condition – owners have not been able to undertake repairs due to affordability issues. Working on a new initiative to conduct city-led property evaluations in order to determine how the city can assist.

Martha Raymond – Planning District II

- August 14th flood - worst in the past two years. City has inspected Timber Branch, waiting for results.

Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House

- Partnered with Little Theatre for special event – was well received.
- Planning to have an open house for the Scottish Walk
- December 10th & 11th – Colonial Holiday Nights at Carlyle House.
- December 17th – Civil War Christmas at Carlyle House.

Rosemarie Esber – Planning District I

- Hoofs Run needs to be cleaned. Flooding is still an issue.
- Daingerfield flooding won't be addressed until 2025.

Sam Hoffman – Planning District I

- Next virtual HILCO update on November 29th at 6:30 p.m. Will discuss public open space plan.

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House

- Tobin Tracey rang the bells at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day.
- Asked commissioners to contemplate HARC's role of advising City Council. Does City Council consider HARC's input? Are there more effective approaches?

Monica St. Dennis – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Vacancies on PRA Commission

Gail Rothrock – HAF

- Annual HAF fundraising event has been canceled, but can still make contributions.

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- In-person meetings and lectures have resumed.

New Business

No new business.

Old Business

Elks Lodge Update (Carol Black)

- Meeting held on October 23rd at Elks Lodge.
- Commissioners have reviewed draft letter to Mayor & City Council, the City Manager, and Transportation and Environmental Services regarding water intrusion at the Elks Lodge #48.
- Commissioner suggestions to the letter:
 - Change HARC “members” to “commissioners”
 - Consider sending to Flood Advisory Board – consists of community members.
 - Add background on historical importance of Black Elks. Aligns with HARC’s mission to preserve cultural and social history.

On a motion by Carol Black, seconded by Mark Farkus, HARC voted and approved the Elks Lodge Letter be sent to City Council, the City Manager, and Transportation and Environmental Services after revisions are made to reflect the discussed suggestions.

Heritage Old Town Apartments

- BAR denied Certificate of Appropriateness.
- Applicant appealed to City Council. Vote was unanimous to overrule BAR decision. Certificate of Appropriateness was granted by council.
- Gail Rothrock testified on behalf of HAF.
- Carol Black expressed her concern over the behavior of Mayor Wilson when addressing residents who voice opposition.

December Meeting

- Next meeting: December 21st – virtual

Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee – Martha Harris, Co-Chair

Torpedo Factory – Draft Letter to Mayor and City Council

- Edits/suggestions to the letter:

- Page 3, “Similarly, substantial alteration of century-old buildings, or to others which make a particularly important, defining contribution to the historic character of the city, ordinarily involve special attention from the BAR.”
- Concentrate on historic district and structure. The Artist Collaborative is significant to social and cultural history of the city.

On a motion by, Gail Rothrock seconded by Martha Raymond, HARC voted to approve the TFAC Implementation Strategy letter be sent to the Mayor and City Council, then made available to the public via press release.

- Look at the Torpedo Factory website’s Frequently Asked Questions – Implementations and Strategies. Gives context to the entire project.
- Commissioners should use the letter to advocate individually.

Jones Point

- NPS owns the lighthouse.
- Send letter to Mayor and City Council alerting of them of the issue. Do not directly contact NPS. Council members will get in touch with the appropriate NPS officials.
- Minor and immediate maintenance could include painting, removing rotted wood and protruding screws.
- Commissioners can contact NPS individually.

On a motion by Michael Hobbs, seconded by Gail Rothrock, HARC authorized the Advocacy Committee draft a letter to the City Council and appropriate city departments emphasizing the urgency of Jones Point restoration and repairs. Letter can be approved and sent by Co-chairs.

Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard Klingenmaier, Chair

- Commissioners will be able to incorporate their suggestions at a sub-committee level. Those with concerns can attend sub-committee meetings.
- Next draft won’t be presented until early 2022.

Bylaws – Sam Hoffman, Chair

- Proposed Bylaws were distributed.
- Changes were incorporated. No follow up comments.

On a motion by, Sam Hoffman seconded by Linda Lovell, HARC voted to approve and implement HARC’s Bylaws. Gretchen Bulova will send the approved Bylaws to the City Clerk.

Board of Architectural Review Update – Bill Conkey

805 North Columbus Multifamily Building (also referred to as Columbus Flats)

- Next step is receiving Certificate of Appropriateness.

OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova

- Gave brief history of The Lyceum.
- Freedom House Museum update

- Smith Group's historic structures presentation & report are available online. An executive summary (shorter version) is also available.
 - Applying for Save America's Treasure's grant, due December 14th
- Started FY23 Budget preparation
- Upcoming events to note:
 - "What Made Washington Tick" by Dr. Henriques on November 18th at 7:00 p.m. – Alexandria's History Museum at The Lyceum
 - Virtual Event – Beaujolais Nouveau Sortie with the Caen Sister City Committee on November 18th at 7:30 p.m.
 - Museum Store Sunday, November 28th - 20% discount at Alexandria Archaeology, Apothecary, Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern, and Lee-Fendall House.
 - Story Time for Young Historians on December 11th.
 - Handbell Ringers Concert on December 12th at 4:00 p.m. – Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum.
 - Preparing for GW Parade and a smaller version of the Birthnight Ball.
 - Giving Tuesday on November 30th.
- Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
 - Planning for pilgrimage to EJI with soil collections in October 2022.
 - Application to EJI has been accepted. Certain criteria need to be met before claiming lynching pillar.
- National Historic Landmark Plaque for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum
 - Needs to be mounted. Will then have a dedication event.
- Murray-Dick-Fawcett House – Restoration
 - Repointing all chimneys.
 - Wood renewal on dormers completed.
 - Metal roof being installed, then shingle roof portion of the historic home.
 - Working on the scope of work for the exterior wood renewal project.
- VDHR State Markers
 - Three markers are planned for installation in the next few months: Earl Lloyd, Restored Government of VA, and Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House
 - Bulova provided comment and background on the Washington Post article, *A Robert E. Lee Historical Marker Vanishes in the Dead of the Night*. The old marker, "Lee's Boyhood Home" will be replaced with "Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House," a revised marker that more accurately reflects the history of the home. Both markers are in the City's possession.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA staff to the commission