

# **MINUTES**

## **HARC ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, January 14, 2021

**This meeting was conducted via ZOOM due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

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**PRESENT:**

Martha Harris  
Michael Hobbs  
Linda Lovell  
Martha Reynolds  
Gail Rothrock  
Sam Hoffman

**CITY STAFF:** Nicole Quinn & Whitney Harris, Office of Historic Alexandria

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Martha Harris at 10:32AM

**VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE:** was read by Nicole Quinn.

**WELCOME TO MEMBERS:**

Martha Harris welcomed all members and gave a brief overview of the topics to be addressed.

**REVIEW OF RECENT PROJECTS:**

Martha asked for a follow up on the letter for the Torpedo Factory and Gail gave a brief update, noting that Chairman Macek from the Planning Commission had some concerns.

Next was the update about the Heritage Project and the proposed draft letter to the Planning Commission on that subject.

A discussion ensued about proposed edits to the letter sent to the BAR earlier. Major subjects included the impact on the height limit and the importance of ensuring the historic culture and integrity of the neighborhood.

Michael Hobbs read sections of the proposed draft letter and Gail Rothrock elaborated on some of the language concerning affordable housing and the 'Bottoms' district. Both emphasized the importance on the historic character of the neighborhood which should inform and guide the project.

The Committee was in agreement with the edits to the letter and agreed to have it circulated to HARC members for their consideration in advance of the next meeting for approval

**NEW BUSINESS:**

One subject discussed was the ongoing sale of River Farm, a property which is currently owned by the American Horticultural Society. Committee members discussed the project and agreed on the importance of raising awareness about the potential sale and how it could affect public access to the property. A website has been established to provide information and committee members agreed that HARC should be informed.

Martha Reynolds introduced a report by Place Economics a group who are offering a new and creative look at historic preservation and in the context of the incoming Biden/Harris administration. Some of these concepts could have importance for the City of Alexandria and Martha provided the web-link, which was shared with the members of the Committee, as well as to be shared at the upcoming HARC Commission meeting as discussion point.

There were no public comments and the meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Quinn, OHA-staff to the Commission