

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 18, 2022

PRESENT:

Carol Black
Shawn Eyer
Monica St. Dennis
Deborah Osborne
Martha Raymond
Tom Soule

Rosemarie Esber
Michael Hobbs
Richard Klingenmaier
Steve Stuart
Ivy Whitlatch

Danny Smith
Laura Lieberman
Linda Lovell
Gail Rothrock
Andrea Tracey

EXCUSED:

Mark Farkus
Martha Harris
Catherine Weinraub
Sam Hoffman

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Eleanor Breen, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Smith at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

Approval of Minutes for December 21, 2021

On a motion by Andrea Tracey and seconded by Ivy Whitlatch, HARC voted to approve the December 21, 2021 minutes.

Commissioner Updates

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House

- Site closed the month of January
- Planning events for February, including books talks
- Events Website: [Lee Fendall House Museum Events](#)

Carol Black – Old Presbyterian Meeting House (no update at this time)

Rosemarie Esber – Planning District 1 (no update at this time)

Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Remain closed to the public but open for events.
- Hoping to host the George Washington Birthday Annual Gala on February 26th.

Michael Hobbs – Old Town Civic Association (no update at this time)

Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

- Meeting for January rescheduled due to the omicron virus

Linda Lovell – Mortar and Pestle Society (no update at this time)

Martha Raymond – Planning District 2 (no update at this time)

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (no update at this time)

Monica St. Dennis – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Two vacancies on PRAC, please spread the word

Tom Soule – Planning District 3 (no update at this time)

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3 (no update at this time)

Andrea Tracey – Carlyle House

- Temporary Closures due to HVAC system repairs
- New museum staff member will be starting this week

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (no update at this time)

Danny Smith – Business Representative

- George Washington Birthday celebration is in February
- Planning for this year’s parade to take place
- “George Washington’s Alexandria” Tour – Sundays at 2 p.m.
- Check WashingtonBirthday.com

Deborah Osborne – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (no update at this time)

New Business

Presentation: Update by Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist, Alexandria Archaeology regarding the plans for “ponding” three excavated ships from the waterfront.

- Dr. Breen reviewed the excavation of the ships and discussed the project, timeline, and expectations
- Project website: [Ship Ponding Progress Page](#)
- Questions about the depth of the pond, frequency of checking timbers, and re-assessment of timbers in 20 years were asked.
- Plan to invite members of HARC to participate in the “submerging event” later this spring.

Old Business

Jones Point Lighthouse (Danny Smith)

- Superintendent followed up with a letter to HARC, taking steps to develop interim maintenance plan, and working on a long-term preservation assessment

River Renew (Ivy Whitlatch)

- Project moving forward, must be completed by 2025

Torpedo Factory (Danny Smith)

- Distributed summary of TFAC updates from the Old Town Civic Association, great summary.
- Continue to request participation as a stakeholder
- “Change at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center?” presented by Agenda Alexandria this month, January 24 at 7 p.m. [Agenda Alexandria](#)

Elks Lodge Update (Carol Black)

- Discussed response letter from Mayor Wilson
- Submitted Letter of Intent to National Trust African American Cultural Action Fund, \$150K
- Large commercial gas stove donated

Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee – Martha Raymond, Co-Chair

- Did not meet in January
- Next meeting Feb 1 at 10 a.m. (zoom planned)

OHA Support – Steve Stuart, Chair

- Laura Lieberman and Sam Hoffman are working on the New Member Binder
- Information will be provided to new City Council and new City Manager. Plan to email a .pdf and only provide a hard copy upon request.
- Hoping to set up in-person meetings with new Council members and new City Manager
- Ivy Whitlach offered to do joint AAC and HARC sessions

Ad Hoc, HARC Composition – Richard Klingenmaier, Chair

- Did not meet in January and hope to meet soon
- Discussing similar wording to AAC for the vacant Society for the Preservation of Black History HARC position. This requires Council approval.

Board of Architectural Review Update – Bill Conkey submitted a report

- 805 North Columbus Multifamily Building
The Certificate of Appropriateness was first considered for the proposed multifamily building at 805 North Columbus Street at the December 1, 2021 BAR hearing. The Board provided specific comments on the proposed design and the applicant requested a deferral in order to address these comments and the comments from Staff. The applicant is returning to the Board with a revised design at the hearing to be held on January 19, 2022.
- 111 South Alfred Street
On December 15, 2021, the BAR denied the request for after the fact approval of the replacement of the existing siding on the east and south elevations. At that meeting, the Board endorsed the Staff proposal that the applicant remedy the violation by installing wood siding to match the original siding in size and design on the east elevation and to acquire old growth wood and have it milled to match the original siding in size and design. Since that hearing, staff has been working with the applicant who will be performing the work as described by staff. The applicant will be coordinating with staff

regarding the scheduling of the work given the availability of the material and weather-related issues.

- 100 Block of King Street
Following an informational session regarding the closing of the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic at the December 15, 2021 hearing, the Board approved the installation of bollards in the area at the January 5, 2021 hearing. Staff has been coordinating with T&ES regarding the procurement of these bollards. It is expected that the bollards will be installed in approximately 8-10 weeks once they have been delivered.

OHA Report – Gretchen Bulova

- Freedom House Museum
 - Working toward our goal of reopening to the public in April with 3 new exhibitions.
 - Installation of track lighting has been completed. Working to repaint the interior and add new carpeting.
 - In December, submitted a Save America’s Treasures Grant to the NPS for exterior restoration funding.
- Roof replacement at the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House continues
- FY23 budget in progress
 - Budget presentation to the new City Manager last week
 - Working on Capital Improvement Budget, funding is lean. May need advocacy to support our projects.
 - \$500,000 in Governor’s FY23 budget to support the preservation of Douglass Cemetery. Additional budget amendment of \$500,000 thanks to Delegate Bennett-Parker and Senator Ebbin.
- Interviewing for new positions, many funded through the City’s ARPA funds. These include an Alexandria Community Remembrance Project coordinator, Museum Educators (front line staff) for Freedom House, Oral History Manager, Curator of African American History, and a Research Historian position.
- Re-accreditation as a museum system is due in June, so we are turning our focus to this initiative. This is a department-wide effort.
- Public meeting on Monday, January 24th about projects at Fort Ward Park and the implementation of the Fort Ward Interpretive Plan. If you are interested, the link is [Register for public meeting](#)
- In 2022, OHA will celebrate its 40th year as a Department of City of Alexandria Government
- Future use of zoom meetings has not been determined at this time. The current directive is through January.

Final Comments

- Linda Lovell thanked Danny Smith for writing a letter of thanks to retiring Councilmember Del Pepper. Commissioner Lovell was pleased to be able to represent HARC and offer remarks at her retirement ceremony.
- Danny wished everyone a very happy New Year!

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, Director, OHA