

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

PRESENT: (10 for quorum)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Nigel Mease

Ivy Whitlatch

Russell Simonaro

Mia Mulrennan

Steve Stuart

Roberta Stevens

Corrine Marasco

Tyler Hale

Margaret Whitesides

Jenny Waters

Christina Bembenek

John Patrick

VIRTUAL:

Michael Pope

EXCUSED:

David Kovalik

Lisa Schumaier

ABSENT:

Rebecca Super

PUBLIC:

Robert Ray

Ed Jayne

Laura Lieberman

CITY STAFF:

Liz Williams, OHA Staff

Bill Conkey, P&Z Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Patrick and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The December 16, 2025 minutes were approved as edited.

Commissioner Updates:

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- At the Alexandria Association’s January meeting, a first vote was held for a \$25,000 grant to the Office of Historic Alexandria for its 250th exhibition at The Lyceum. The motion for the grant was approved.
- On February 16th, Carol Cadou will be the featured speaker at the Association’s monthly meeting. Her presentation is entitled “Celebrating America250: Preserving a Future for Our Nation’s Past.”

Jenny Waters – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- They will be closed during January.
- Their newest exhibition, which will be on women’s suffrage, will open Feb 7th and close on May 31st.
- The following exhibition, opening in June, will be focused on America’s 250th anniversary.

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Last Friday, the Alexandria Archaeology Commission hosted a volunteer recognition party in the Torpedo Factory. An award was given to Seth Tinkham honoring his sixteen years of volunteer service. He is helping with the writing of the PIF (Preliminary Information Forms) for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex’s nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- It was a decade ago that a ship from the 1700s was unearthed at the site of the present day Hotel Indigo. It brought international news coverage to this archaeological find.

However, the ship's return to Alexandria and the location for its display here are not finalized and not included in the Alexandria City's budget.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- The Rosemont Citizen Association's History Committee now has eleven volunteers.

Robert Ray – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Robert Ray, representing HAF, had no report.

Nigel Mease – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (AHRPC)

- The Commission is continuing its work on standard operating procedures and on easement inspections.

Tyler Hale – Old Town Civic Association

- No Report
- Ivy Whitlatch brought up National Maritime Heritage Foundation's proposed participation in the 1 Prince Street pump station location with a National Naval and Maritime Museum.
 - The Foundation made a presentation to the Old Town Civic Association about their concept and potential plans for a museum as part of the pump station complex. They are working with the Tall Ship Providence.
 - Informational briefing about the plans is scheduled for January 22nd. Ivy Whitlatch will be attending the briefing.

Carol Black – Planning District 2

- She was not able to attend the Del Ray Citizens Association Meeting remotely as a result of the Verizon outage.

Margaret Whitesides – Houses of Worship

- This was the first HARC meeting for Margaret Whitesides. She did not have a report.

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Absent

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory

- Excused Absence

Christina Bembenek

- No Report

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Excused Absence

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- There are a number of upcoming events:
 - January 28 – Women of the Army in the Revolution at 7 p.m. on Zoom
 - February 25 – Martha Washington at 7 p.m. on Zoom
 - March 25 – Women in Preservation at the Lyceum at 7 p.m.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- The Annual Sculpture Show at the Athenaeum will be opening January 29th.

New Business:

- Carol Black – offered the idea of honoring Gail Rothrock for her years of service to HARC.
 - Ivy proposed that HARC pursue proposing Gail Rothrock for recognition as an Alexandria Living Legend. Carol volunteered to work on the application. In addition, Carol suggested Gail’s recognition at a HARC meeting as has been done with past long-service members.
- Tyler Hale suggested a New Member onboarding process.
 - Ivy shared the information that the Alexandria Archaeology Commission is working on something similar and she offered to share it with HARC.
- Russell Simonaro inquired about 517 S. Washington and who purchased the property. Commission members did not know.

Old Business:

- Waterfront Pump Station
 - A third alternative is being proposed that involves a “split station” with a smaller building in the park and the pump station located in the 1 Prince Street Building.
 - Cost estimates are being made on two different options – the one site at 1 Prince or the split station. These estimates will be available by February or March 2026.
- Jones Point Lighthouse
 - Carol had a conversation with Don Beyer’s Chief of Staff and received good updates:
 - Brush has been cleared and the broken fence torn down.
 - Beyer does speak with the Superintendent on a regular basis.
 - Funding is in place for exterior renovations to begin in the fall, but the interior also requires restoration.
 - The protection of the boundary stone has been damaged and requires repair.
- 250th Fundraising
 - Raising awareness that 250th is here and would be good for organizations to know and take advantage of this anniversary.
- Murals

- BAR does not have purview over murals on buildings that have already been painted. As background for this discussion, a signage ordinance was passed this past summer allowing murals on painted buildings. BAR does oversee particular rules on signage. In addition, any proposal to paint unpainted masonry goes to the BAR.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- He was not able to attend the January 9th retreat. He is waiting for the minutes to share.

City Hall and Market Square Redesign – John Patrick and Carol Black

- An appeal has been completed with City Council. Carol Black and John Patrick attended the City Council session on the appeal of the redesign.
- The Council voted in agreement with both the City and BAR except in two significant cases.
 - 1) The BAR's recommendation to install lighter-weight replacements for the current ornamental chimneys was defeated after the head of the Department of General Services, in response to a question from Councilman Aguirre, said that providing structural support for chimneys as heavy as the current ones would bring the replacement cost to \$200,000.
 - 2) The BAR's recommendation for a more colonial-style entablature and stone or cast stone
 - Lighting for the 5th floor will only be for safety purposes.
 - The architectural firm will work with BAR staff on suggested design elements for Market Square.
- Information on the renovation can be found at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/CityHall>

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

910 King Street

- The applicant for 910 King Street has appealed the decision of the BAR to City Council. This appeal will be heard at the Council hearing this Saturday morning. The proposed scope of work includes new railings, metalwork at the roof, exterior lighting, signage, and painting/staining the building exterior.

333 North Fairfax Street

- The Board will hold the third Concept Review for the proposed townhouse development at 433 N Fairfax Street tomorrow evening. The applicant has made significant design changes in response to comments from the Board and would like their feedback before the project goes to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval. The revised design includes greater diversity in the style of the buildings and more traditional roof forms.

415 North Alfred Street

- The Board will also be holding a Concept Review for the proposed demolition of the existing building and redevelopment of the property at 415 N Alfred Street. The existing building dates from the mid-twentieth century including a significant renovation during the 1980s. The property will be developed to include five new townhouses.

601 Wythe Street

- At the BAR hearing tomorrow evening the Board will consider a request for modifications to the existing office building at 601 Wythe Street to convert the building into a multi-unit residential use. The modifications will include the addition of balconies and the replacement of all of the existing windows.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Update: Liz Williams

- We are officially in 2026 which means we are in full swing for Alexandria's Commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary. A launch event is planned for January 26th at 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum. Activities will include new programs throughout the year, new exhibitions and our largest event - Sails on the Potomac from June 12-14, 2026.
- We have a special program and social media content for Black History Month. The theme this year is "A Century of Black History Commemorations."
- Other priorities include the Freedom House Museum's interior renovation and its new exhibitions as well as the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project.

Public Comment

Laura Lieberman shared that this is her last official meeting. She offered thanks for all she has learned and the cool people she has met since she began serving in 2014.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is planned for February 17, 2026, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Williams, OHA

Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary