

# Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Lloyd House  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

### Attendance

#### Present: (11 for quorum)

Carol Black  
Donna DeBlasio  
Nigel Mease  
Ivy Whitlatch  
Lisa Schumaier  
Ed Jayne  
Russell Simonaro  
Michael Pope  
Jenny Waters  
John Patrick  
Margaret Whitesides  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Mia Mulrennan

#### Excused:

Christina Bembenek  
Gayle Converse  
Tyler Hale  
Corrine Marasco  
Roberta Stevens  
Steve Stuart  
Rebecca Super

#### Absent:

#### Public:

#### City Staff

Liz Williams, OHA Staff  
Bill Conkey, P&Z Staff

# Agenda

## Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Brownlowe at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

## Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2026:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Patrick and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. An edit was made to the language under the Ship Support discussion. The March 17, 2026, minutes were approved as edited.

## Commissioner Updates:

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

- Continuing to look at Commonwealth language and how Commission can update our language.

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Absent

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- Awards program tomorrow night at the Alexandria History Museum at 7 p.m.! It will be a great evening with Peter Henriques as the keynote speaker.
- Also participating in the Arlington Historical Society History Festival on May 9.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- One of the award winners for tomorrow night is a former AAC Board member – Seth Tinkham.
- Had a Wilkes Street Cemetery owners meeting last Monday. The PIF is 98% completed. Next steps are to send it to VDHR for review, then is approve, onto writing the full National Register nomination.

Margaret Whitesides – Houses of Worship

- No report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No report

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory

- Lost founder Marian Van Landingham earlier this month. Her celebration of life will be May 17 6:30p.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Jenny Waters – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Very busy calendar! Lots of sold out events + tickets are going fast for current events.
- Installed little free library along Washington Street fence.
- Wallpaper project continuing.
- Lecture on Saturday with expands on suffrage exhibit.
- Spring fundraiser on May 2 - Wine & Art Night.

- Participating in Spring2ACTion tomorrow. Funds will support the South Parlor wallpaper.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Went to archives and talked with Sean. Was hoping to borrow print of Marshall House for the Alexandrian hotel however this object was not available for lending.
- The City Council Naming Committee will have public hearing about next round of street renaming on April 30.

Ed Jayne – Community Member

- No Report

Carol Black – Planning District 2

- Will be a docent at the Del Ray House and Garden Tour on May 9.
- Suggested another Spring2ACTion organization to support - Elks Lodge #48!

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No report

Tyler Hale – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- Excused Absence

Gayle Converse - Volunteer

- Excused Absence

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Excused Absence – *submitted report electronically.*
- The Alexandria Association's upcoming program will be held on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at The Lyceum at 7:30 p.m. with light refreshments at 7 p.m.
  - "Americana in a Far Country: Ima Hogg and the Bayou Bend Collection" with Bradley Brooks as the presenter. The daughter of the first native-born governor of Texas, she began her collection of American antiques, including glass, ceramics and furniture, in the early 1920s. Ms. Hogg made gifts of her home and collection at Bayou Bend to Houston's Museum of Fine Arts which opened to the public in 1966. The development of the Bayou Bend Collection under Ms. Hogg and more recent additions will be discussed.
  - The lecture is free to Alexandria Association members with a suggested contribution for non-members of \$10.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- Excused Absence

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- Excused Absence

Christina Bembenek - Planning District 1

- Excused Absence

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- Hosted Marketplace as part of the Historic Garden Tour. Very successful!
  - Ivy Whitlatch shared Virginia is the only state that does a statewide Historic Garden Tour. A great enterprise to support their efforts in conservation and landscape restoration.
- Upcoming events over next several weeks – dance, singing, chamber music.
- Participating in Spring2ACTion as well.

## New Business:

- Russell Simonaro shared a Roberts Rules of Order book for future meeting guidance.
- Ivy Whitlatch made suggestion that HARC send the new City Council Member letter to the winner of the special election this evening.

## Old Business:

### Waterfront Pump Station

- Storm water advisory committee will be working on flooding issue.
- This topic will be removed from old business unless something changes.

### Jones Point Lighthouse

- Carol Black is investigating the scope of work for the fall.
- This topic will be removed from old business unless something changes.

### Ship Support

- Ivy Whitlatch shared “this ship has sailed.” The Goal of letter has happened been accomplished and RFPs are due next week. Ivy withdraws this as an item of business.
- John Patrick moved to take Ivy Whitlatch’s motion that was tabled at the previous meeting off the table and reject it. It was seconded by Donna Deblasio.
- Chair Chris Brownlowe reminded members if you need to present something to the commission, it must be done before the minutes and agenda go out on the Wednesday before the meeting. OHA staff at the next meeting will provide clarification on communication rules.

### New Member Onboarding

- Steve Stuart has located the old files and will work with HARC’s chair, Christopher Brownlowe, on creating a new member packet.
- Jenny Waters has HARC member guidebook from Laura Lieberman she will forward to OHA staff liaison for this onboarding project.

## Standing Committee Reports:

### Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- McCoy Remembrance: Dr. Rodney Sadler will speak on the Intersection of Faith Society and Culture at Roberts Memorial United Methodist – doors open 6:30p, program starts at 7p on April 23. Highly encouraged attendance.
- NAACP will provide peaceful protest training on April 24. This is a free event but registration is encouraged. Event will be at the Durant Center 6-8 p.m.

## Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

### 732 N Washington Street

- At the April 8, 2026, BAR hearing the Board heard an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the conversion of the existing office building at 732 N Washington Street into a new multi-unit residential building. The proposal includes re-constructing the mansard roof area with a new enclosure, dormers, and recessed balconies. The modifications also include enlarging window openings throughout and installing

projecting balconies. The Board made design comments and the applicant requested a deferral in order to make revisions in response to these comments.

#### 724 N Patrick Street

- At the April 8, 2026, BAR hearing the Board heard a Concept Review for the construction of five new townhouses on the south west corner of the intersection of Madison Street and North Patrick Street. The new townhouses will be three floors with a partial fourth floor and roof deck. The lower three floors will be clad in brick while the upper levels will have a horizontal lap siding. Parking for the townhouses will be accessed off of Madison Street and will be behind the townhouses.

#### Fiber Cement Workshop

- At the hearing tomorrow, April 22 2026, staff will do a presentation comparing the different types of fiber cement siding that is commonly used. We will explore the pros and cons of each type of fiber cement siding and discuss where some may be appropriate and where others are not. The goal is to provide the Board members with a greater level of familiarity with the building material as they consider proposals for different types of projects.

### Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Update: Liz Williams

- OHA is officially in full swing for Alexandria's Commemoration of the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in the final stretch for planning Sails on the Potomac from June 12-14, 2026.
- Getting ready for Spring2ACTion tomorrow. Funds will be supporting a revision of the Friendship Firehouse Museum. Our event to support the Power Hour giving is from 6-8 p.m. at the Firehouse.
- The Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project should be done later this year.
- Lots of public programs this summer at the Museums from specialty tours to trivia nights.

### Public Comment

None

### Adjournment

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The next meeting is planned for May 19, 2026, at the Lloyd House.

### Respectfully Submitted:

Liz Williams, OHA

Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary