

# Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Lloyd House  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

### Attendance

#### Present: (11 for quorum)

Christina Bembenek  
Christopher Brownlowe  
Gayle Converse  
Donna DeBlasio  
Carol Black  
Nigel Mease  
John Patrick  
Michael Pope  
Rick Price  
Lisa Schumaier  
Russell Simonaro  
Roberta Stevens  
Steve Stuart  
Ivy Whitlatch

#### Excused:

Ed Jayne, Corinne Marasco, Mia Mulrennan, Rebecca Super, Jenny Waters, Margaret Whitesides

#### Absent:

Tyler Hale

#### Public:

Christina Laba, Public Records Advisory Commission (PRAC)

#### City Staff

Nicole Quinn, OHA Staff  
Bill Conkey, P&Z Staff

# Agenda

## Call to Order:

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

## Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2026:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by John Patrick. The April 21, 2026, minutes were approved unanimously.

## Commissioner Updates:

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

- Nigel reported that each policy is reviewed and getting adopted to reflect the Virginia State policy. They are currently working on policy #2.

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Excused Absence

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- The upcoming events include May 27<sup>th</sup>'s "Shipwreck on the Potomac, Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer" lecture by Karen Stone at The Lyceum; June 5<sup>th</sup>'s "Wooden Hulls & Ragtag Fleets: From the Continental to the US Navy" by T. Shephard at The Athenaeum, and June 24<sup>th</sup>'s "The American Revolution and the Fate of the World" lecture by Richard Bell at The Lyceum.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) to the State to recognize the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex for the National Historic Registry was submitted early and went through the first step of approvals. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources was supportive of its inclusion in the Registry and Federal approval is expected later in the year.

Margaret Whitesides – Houses of Worship

- Excused Absence

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- Excused Absent

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory

- Only one proposal was received for a market survey for information to be used for preliminary planning purposes in support of the City's decision-making process regarding the future governance of the Torpedo Factory.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Jenny Waters – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Excused Absence

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Russell attended a public meeting for phase two of the re-naming of Confederate Street-names. Iverson Street, named after a Confederate General, is under consideration to be changed to Edmonson Street after the Edmonson Sisters. The suggestions will still need more community input before being confirmed.

Ed Jayne – Community Member

- Excused Absence

Carol Black – Planning District 2

- Carol reported on the Del Ray House Tour and her attendance at the Old Town Civic Association Meeting

John Patrick – Planning District 2.

- No Report

Tyler Hale – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- No Report

Gayle Converse - Volunteer

- The Office of Historic Alexandria Volunteer Appreciation Party was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and was a great success.
- The Junior Docent program will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Roberta highly recommended the “Grown Up Field Trip” Archives & Records Center tour with Sean Ferguson.
- She talked about the May Alexandria Association program on “Americana in a Far Country: Ima Hogg and the Bayou Bend” and the background behind Ima’s first name.

Steve Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- Excused Absence

Christina Bembenek - Planning District 1

- No Report

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- Chris mentioned the successful Army Band quartet concert.
- The June 5<sup>th</sup> lecture is “Wooden Hulls & Ragtag Fleets: From the Continental to the US Navy.” The next artist’s talk will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> featuring Mark Sirinsky on “Walks in the Wood.”

## New Business:

- Rick Price, Historic Alexandria Foundation representative, was welcomed.
- Summer Schedule: A motion that HARC meet in July and skip August was made by Nigel Mease and seconded by John Patrick. The motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business:

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 received the HARC member guidebook from Laura Lieberman. She will forward it to the OHA staff liaison for this onboarding project.
- A discussion about HARC weighing in on feasibility of a waterfront location for the ship hulls ensued after being suggested by Ivy Whitlatch. A motion to end the discussion and move it to next month was made by John Patrick and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The motion did not pass.

## Standing Committee Reports:

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

- ACRP is planning fundraisers for the Fall and Winter. A special speaker and dinner program will be held at the Lloyd House, \$40 to attend.
- The August remembrance for Benjamin Thomas is being planned.

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

### 732 N Washington Street

- At the May 6, 2026, BAR hearing the Board approved the design for the conversion of the office building at 732 North Washington Street into a multi-unit residential building. The revisions to the building include the addition of a fifth floor mansard structure with dormers and recessed balconies along with the new projecting balconies at the lower floors. The project had previously been deferred by the Board to allow for additional study of the proposed mansard and the details of the projecting balconies.

### 806 N Columbus Street

- At the May 20, 2026, BAR hearing the Board will consider a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of three townhouses on a currently vacant lot at 806 N Columbus Street. The townhouses will be attached and will be three floors plus a recessed fourth floor. The building will be clad in a light colored brick on the north, east and west sides and horizontal siding at the west elevation.

### Design Guidelines

- Bill reported that the previous evening the BAR Design Guidelines Committee re-started their effort to update the remaining chapters of the original 1993 Design Guidelines. The committee has divided up the remaining chapters into three sections to be completed over the next year. At the end of each section, the staff will hold a community meeting to review the proposed chapters with the public and receive feedback. Following the community meetings, the chapters will be taken to the BAR for adoption. The goal is to have this project completed over the course of the next calendar year.

## Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Update: Nicole Quinn

- The new format for the agenda and minutes meets the required AOA Federal standard for accessibility.
- Alexandria's Commemoration of the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sails on the Potomac, from June 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, is rapidly approaching. Information on tall ship tickets and how to volunteer can be found at [alexandriava.gov/sails250](http://alexandriava.gov/sails250).
- Bronze plaques at Freedmen's Cemetery were cleaned by a conservator as part of the annual maintenance program.
- Nicole suggested HARC members visit the Time and Place 250<sup>th</sup> sculpture at the Alexandria Courthouse, "*00:10:00 (The Declaration of Independence)*," by Richmond-based artist Sandy Williams IV. The sculpture debuted on Saturday, April 25, 2026.
- The new exhibit at The Lyceum, "The Stories of the U.S." for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will open on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- OHA is partnering with the Beautification Commission to promote red, white, and blue native plantings throughout Alexandria between Memorial Day and Labor Day as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration.
- Nicole recommended reserving a ticket now for the Alexandria Forum, "Nothing but Independence," which will be held at The Lyceum on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Comment

None

## Adjournment

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is planned for June 16, 2026, at the Lloyd House.

## Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Quinn, OHA

Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary