

MINUTES

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015

PRESENT:

Jolande Goldberg
Martha Harris
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson
Dennis Hensley

Vanessa Herndon
Laura Lieberman
Linda Lovell
Elizabeth McCall
McArthur Myers
Gail Rothrock

Allen Schirmer
Danny Smith
Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Patricia Washington
Richard Webber
Margaret Wood

EXCUSED: Bell-Krasner, Stillner, Mallamo

UNEXCUSED: Barnes, Commisso, Hobbs, Maloney, Meza

CITY STAFF: Al Cox, Robin Moscatti

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hendrickson at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were amended for spelling and grammatical errors. Dennis Hensley moved to approve the amended minutes with Danny Smith second. The amended minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chairman Hendrickson opened the discussion of the Commission's Annual Report to the City Council. He noted that brevity is always appreciated. Dennis asked what happens to the report after the presentation to the Council. The report which discusses the various projects which the commission supports becomes part of the public record. Danny Smith requested that the report be posted on the Office of Historic Alexandria's website. Gail Rothrock requested a separate heading to be added to continue to show our support of the waterfront and made a motion to that effect. Motion was seconded by Danny Smith and the annual report was approved.

DEL RAY NEIGHBOHOOD

Chairman Hendrickson opened a discussion of this Alexandria area which has a new residential pattern book which examines the house styles. It is hoped that this book will be used by home owners and developers to identify the unique elements which define a house. Al Cox noted that the pattern book has already been used by developers to salvage and reuse original house stone along Mount Vernon Avenue. Bill voiced a concern that new residents may not appreciate the architectural significance of the houses. Al Cox asked HARC to write a letter to the school board in support of the nomination. The suggestion was made to invite the school board to a future HARC meeting where Lance and Al could present the reasons for the nomination. Patricia Washington offered the support of Visit Alexandria. Bill said he would write a letter to the school's superintendent with the request and speak at a public session of the board. Elizabeth McCall asked the date of the last building survey of Alexandria. 1996 was the last survey of all 100 year old buildings; thus the survey needs to be updated. Dennis suggested that the HARC members bring this subject up at their next meeting. Gail added that Old Town North has an historic walking tour. Al added that the research of 13 streamline modern buildings is on website. Susan Hellman moved to have Bill write the letter to the school board and Gail seconded.

MEMBER REPORTS

Patricia Washington reported on 'Mercy Street' . VISIT ALEXANDRIA worked with Carlyle House on the series. PBS has put a lot of energy into the production of the series. The first week of November was a media blitz in the Washington/Alexandria area with visits from the cast, writers and producers. Vanessa noted that Carlyle House will expand the 'Who this wounded are" (quote from the diary of Julia Webber) exhibit to cover the entire second floor. This will open in January. Questions were asked as to why the series was not filmed in Alexandria. It was explained that this was logistically impossible.

Martha Harris reported that while visiting her sister, she visited Alexandria's sister city Gyumri, Armenia. The relationship between Alexandria and Gyumri has become dormant. Martha made contact with the municipal city government and reported they would love to resurrect the relationship.

For the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, Elizabeth McCall reported that the deadline for nominations to the List of Endangered Sites has been extended. She also reported on the discovery of the 1755 Carlyle Warehouse during the excavation at South Union Street. Steps have been taken to preserve the remnants of this first public warehouse through freezing at a facility in Fort Detrick. It is hoped that the artifacts will eventually be used as an interpretive element on the waterfront. The discovery was covered by local media. The original waterline has been uncovered. Dennis questioned the funding of the preservation. Elizabeth stated that this had been planned for in Archaeology's budget.

Old Presbyterian Meeting House announced a Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 5th, from 12 noon to 3 pm at Heritage Hall. You are invited to fill a box with homemade cookies and an assortment of goodies for \$10/pound. All proceeds support the maintenance and preservation of the historic burial ground.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial will hold its annual GW event on February 27, 2016.

Lee-Fendall House will hold a cooking demonstration and lecture on Thanksgiving in the 18th Century and will take part in the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is sponsoring "A Christmas Carol" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria with a silent auction and special appearance of Father Christmas.

The Chamber of Commerce has a new executive officer.

It is the 40th anniversary of the Del Ray 5 mile Turkey Trot, which begins and ends at the GW Middle School.

Carlyle is holding a soldiers encampment and will take part in the Christmas Candlelight tour. VISIT ALEXANDRIA is promoting 'Shop Small' for Christmas, the boutique district, the artisans of the Torpedo factory and the annual tree lighting at Market Square.

Torpedo Factory will be decorated for Christmas with a special family event on December 5th featuring a brass quintet and choral singers.

The Alexandria Historical Society reported that the last lecture was well received and featured a private member reception with the speaker before the lecture. The Society will sponsor a behind the scenes tour of Carlyle House on January 30th. On March 23, 2016, the Society will feature a speaker on the local department store chain 'Woodward and Lothrop'

MacArthur Myers reported that in December, Mount Vernon will present a lecture on the new exhibition of slavery at Mount Vernon.

OHA UPDATES / STRATEGIC PLAN

Fort Ward Park – On November 12, a second meeting was held of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Management Plan Implementation Monitoring Group. Updates were given on storm-water management and related archaeology, the interpretative planning process and park area management. A picture of grave markers to be placed in the park was presented to HARC. The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2016.

Office of Historic Alexandria is preparing the strategic plan for the next five years. HARC is to take the lead on various parts of the plan. Current plan is on the OHA website. The Lloyd House gardens will be replanted in native plants.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Board of Architectural Review- All tours for the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) conference were sold out. The proposed plans for the Ramsey Homes project will be in circuit court in January.

The next topic is the proposed Metro station for Potomac Yard.

Historic Alexandria Foundation – Gail Rothrock reported that the foundation sponsored a presentation of the Old Town Historic Area Alley Survey to members of the NTHP. HAF has funded litigation against the destruction of the Ramsay House properties

The Alley Study will be presented to HARC in the future.

McArthur Myers asked for clarification on Way Finder status.

Dennis Hensley requested a general website for all Alexandria Association.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be at The Lyceum on Dec. 15, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lovell, member of HARC