

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

PRESENT:

Elliot Bell-Krasner
Michael Commisso
Anthony DeRigge
Jolande Goldberg
Martha Harris
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson

Dennis Hensley
Vanessa Herndon
Linda Lovell
Ann Marie Maloney
Radka Mavrova
Elizabeth McCall
Carolyn Meza
McArthur Myers

Gail Rothrock
Allen Schirmer
Danny Smith
Anna Stillner
Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Patricia Washington
Richard Webber

EXCUSED: Margaret Wood, Laura Lieberman

UNEXCUSED: None

CITY STAFF: Al Cox, J. Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bill Hendrickson called to order the meeting of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) at **7:35 pm** at Lloyd House, 220 North Washington Street. Due to traffic gridlock throughout Alexandria Lance Mallamo began taking notes until the Secretary Elliott Bell-Krasner arrived. Bill Hendrickson stated that the meetings have been running late recently, so member items were to report on first.

MAY 19 2015 MINUTES

POTENTIALLY THREATENED OR ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES DISCUSSION (ALLEYS, RAMSEY HOMES, DEL RAY PROPERTIES, ETC.)

The Archaeological Commission has begun a project to call attention to threatened sites or resources. These would be buildings, scenic vistas and any features that are threatened by development or neglect. Bill Hendrickson then asked Lance Mallamo to send the information around, so that members can review the criteria. The list will be developed annually as properties are nominated.

- Elizabeth McCall said that these properties can be homes, alleys, other potentially historic sites that are being threatened for demolition. She said that the Alexandria Archeological Commission will be taking submissions
- Bill Hendrickson asked Lance Mallamo if the criteria could be sent around to members of HARC
- Lance Mallamo said he would do that (subsequently it was learned that criteria for nominations had not been established.)
- Bill Hendrickson also commended the work that the commission is doing, but that HARC should think outside of Old Town, because there are other buildings in other neighborhoods that are potentially endangered and/or threatened
- Elizabeth McCall said that this will be annual process
- McArthur Meyers mentioned GW high school, which is not currently being threatened but could also go on the list
- Elliot Bell-Krasner said that the draft of the nomination for the Ramsey Homes sent around by Gail is a good model. He asked if some buildings/sites are going to be given priority
- Elizabeth McCall said that the commission is going to keep an open mind about the process.
- Patricia Washington said that with respect to the Ramsey Homes, the story about the African-American connection is important.

- A **MOTION** was made by Danny Smith and seconded by Dennis Hensley that the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission supports the nomination of the Ramsey Homes to the 2015 Alexandria Archeological Commission's Endangered List on the basis of its historical significance and with additional research on the African-American connection to the site from the Office of Historic Alexandria. The motion was approved **UNANIMOUSLY**.

- Gail will be meeting more about advocating for the preservation of the Ramsey Homes over the summer
- Elliot Bell-Krasner said that HARC members should meet with members of the City Council over the summer
- Susan Hellman said that the Alleyway Working Group would like HARC to support the nomination of Alexandria's historic alleys

- Martha Harris wants to know about the ultimate objective about preserving and restoring the alleys (EX: public tours)
- Elizabeth McCall said that as far as she knows, access to certain historic alleys is not being restricted
- Dennis Hensley asked Elizabeth McCall as to whether certain property owners are trying to claim ownership of part of an alley, or an entire alley
- Elizabeth McCall said that it happened recently and it ended up in court
- Susan Hellman said that the working group is really just cataloguing the features of the alleys, and the alleys end up in a register, and then it is up to the City to decide what happens to public and private alleys in terms of ownership, usage etc...

A **MOTION** was made and seconded that the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission supports the nomination of the historic alleys to the 2015 Alexandria Archeological Commission's Endangered List. The motion was agreed to **UNANIMOUSLY**.

- Bill Hendrickson brought up certain Del Ray properties, which could be considered for the list.

A **MOTION** was made by Gail Rothrock and seconded by Dennis Hensley that the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission support the nomination of 1800 Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray to the 2015 Alexandria Archeological Commission's Endangered List. Bill Hendrickson will write up the nomination. The motion was agreed to **UNANIMOUSLY**.

DISCUSSION OF TIME LENGTH FOR HARC MEETINGS, POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FALL MEETINGS.

- Bill Hendrickson brought up the length of HARC meetings and that some people think that the meetings are too long
- Linda Lovell said that certain information and updates can be shared via e-mail
- Nancy Tingen said that updates from other boards and commissions could be shared via e-mail in advance of meetings and then included in the minutes
- Bill Hendrickson said that the website could be updated to include agendas, minutes
- Ann Marie Maloney said the website could also include the priorities of the commission, perhaps with pictures
- Lance Mallamo said that he will work with his IT person over the summer on website updates

ELECTIONS OF HARC OFFICERS

- Bill Hendrickson was re-elected as Chair by **ACCLAMATION**.
- Elliot Bell-Krasner was elected as Vice-Chair by **ACCLAMATION**.

OHA UPDATES, INCLUDING FORT WARD MONITORING GROUP

- Lance Mallamo said that the City Council has created an ad-hoc Monitoring Group for the Fort Ward Management Plan. The first meeting is planned for September.
- HARC will have one representative on the new Fort Ward Monitoring Group.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded that McArthur Myers be the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission's representative to the Fort Ward Monitoring Group. The motion was agreed to **UNANIMOUSLY**.

- Lance Mallamo reported that the visit of the French ship *L'Hermione*, was a huge success, with 25,000 visitors to the city to see the ship over three days. Four temporary exhibits on the *Marquis de Lafayette*, the *Washington Rochambeau Trial and Encampment*, *African Americans in the Revolutionary War*, and *Lafayette's 1824 visit to Alexandria* were prepared by OHA.
- Minor damage to the *African Americans in the Revolutionary War* exhibit at the Black History Museum was reported due the excessive heat on "Lafayette Day" events held at select OHA museums on May 31. The damage was repaired in time for the ship's visit in June.
- Applications for OHA's first Deputy Director position have been received and interviews will take place in July.
- OHA has begun a new multi-year project entitled *Immigration Alexandria: Past, Present and Future* and will be working with staff from the Smithsonian Institution associated with the upcoming *Many Voices, One Nation* at the American History Museum.

There was an extended discussion about the work done by the Alley Group and the legal ownership issues associated with historic alleys. The City has a private 'Public Alley' map.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Each member organization described upcoming events.

OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- NO REPORT

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be at Lloyd House on September 15th

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:08PM

Respectfully submitted,
Elliot Bell-Krasner, Recording Secretary
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission