

MINUTES

Tuesday, Oct.20, 2015

PRESENT:

Elliot Bell-Krasner
Melinda Barnes
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson
Dennis Hensley
Vanessa Herndon

Linda Lovell
Radka Mavrova
Elizabeth McCall
Carolyn Meza
McArthur Myers
Allen Schirmer

Danny Smith
Anna Stillner
Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Patricia Washington
Richard Webber

EXCUSED: Commisso, Goldberg, Harris, Lieberman, Maloney, Rothrock, Wood

GUESTS: Debbie Mullins, Sherry Hulfish-Brown, Mattie Harms, Nancy Olds, Vanessa McKinney
Eve Stocker, Nancy Turner, Dan Jones, J.J. Smith
Maria Castronnevo, Melissa Sasidaran, Katherine Maguad

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The monthly meeting of the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Hendricks at 7:20pm

SEPT.15, 2015 MINUTES

Dennis Hensley moved to accept the minutes of the September meeting with amendments. Eliot Bell-Krasner seconded. Motion carried and the minutes were approved as amended.

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

An Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has been organized to study issues concerning Confederate memorials located in Alexandria, to include street names. Our commission requested a seat on this committee. That requested was granted. Chairman Hendricks explained the responsibilities and time involved in service to this committee. Danny Smith nominated Elizabeth McCall. The nomination was seconded by Linda Lovell.

During the discussion a statement was made by Debby Mullins, President of the R.E. Lee, 17th VA Regiment chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, particularly concerning the Virginia law in place which prevents any relocation of the UDC owned statue 'Appomattox'. Patricia Washington asked if Elizabeth should have an initial opinion from HARC to voice to the Advisory committee. Caroline Meza was concerned if Elizabeth would offer just her opinion or HARC's. Dennis mentioned that we do need a consensus opinion from HARC. Linda Lovell suggested that we wait until the initial meeting of the Ad Hoc committee and Elizabeth's report as to how the committee plans to approach the subject. Elizabeth said she would like to get the feel of the advisory committee and report back to us. Patricia mentioned that she would send an article written by a college professor to HARC members and the hope that experts would be brought in by the Ad Hoc group. Chairman Hendricks mentioned that he hopes the group will also look at how other municipalities had handled similar situations.

There being no further discussion the motion for Elizabeth McCall to be the HARC representative to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee was passed.

WATERFRONT PLAN

Catherine Milliaras, preservation planner from the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning presented the current waterfront plan.

Historic Interpretation

100 block of South Union. The design for the Hotel Indigo, built by Carr Development was inspired by historic warehouses. The 1749 Potomac shoreline will be used in the design of the lobby. Robinson Terminal has been renamed Robinson Landing. The developer of this property has received approval for a design utilizing the rich and varied history of the site. Fifteen different types of industries occupied the site of the years. Developers working with City Archaeologists and local historians such as Ted Pulliam, will use the entire site for historic interpretation. This interpretation will take various forms such as using three different types of stone to illustrate the original waterline and using chairs that will resemble ships.

Robinson Street North

- This property is to emphasize the relationship to West's Point. The historic warehouses will be represented in design details such as the hogsheads used to ship tobacco.
- The original Boathouse building is scheduled to be removed to make way for the new Fitzgerald Square, and the Beachcomber building where the Boat Club will relocate cannot be salvaged. The new building will have cantilevered elements to interpret sailing vessels. The new building will tell the history of the boat club and use three interpretative

elements. Dennis asked if the document discusses the history is available to the public. Lance offered that all waterfront information has been gathered by OHA and is online. Elizabeth McCall said the Archaeology Commission has been involved early in the decision making.

Questions arose concerning the other sites on the waterfront. Chairman Hendricks asked if financing will be available to interpret the remaining sites, since the entire interpretation could take as long as 20 years. He stated that Public Art committee seems to be out of the picture. He also felt that City Council may finish the current development sites and feel that the waterfront is finished. Lance feels that there will be a commitment to finish the entire waterfront. Catherine stated that a synergy has started in the city to update other infrastructure in line with what is occurring on the waterfront. features, e.g., city lamp posts. Also included in the waterfront development are flood mitigation, drainage and pollution control. Archaeology will be included in every aspect. The developer is not paying for every change made to Point Lumley. Elliot voiced his concern that historic interpretation will be dismissed in the future. Elizabeth answered that this was always known to be an issue. That public participation and nonprofit groups will have to join with developers in the future. Another future concern is for all the new and restored sites to be properly maintained. Catherine feels that the current projects are setting the bar high so that future developers will want to emulate them in their design. McArthur Myers wondered if any interpretation included the slave trade, e.g.; the slaves coming off boats and slave auctions. The fishing trade after the Civil War would also be a good interpretive aspect. Catherine answered that all historic aspects must be reviewed by OHA and Archaeology. She also mentioned that the Olin design group is very impressed with the history plan. Various HARC members feel that our commission needs to keep the public aware of the historic interpretation, focus on the entire waterfront plan and to advocate for an art funding plan.

OHA UPDATES

OHA has received an NEH grant for the immigration project. Planning has started for the WWI Centennial.

HARC PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR/MEMBER ORGANIZATION

McArthur Myers noted the placement of a state marker for the Parker-Grey District. He also announced that the Carlyle Club will have a production of “Just Earl”, a one man show about the life and journey of Earl Francis Lloyd. All proceeds will benefit the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame Project.

In his capacity as HARC representative on the Fort Ward management advisory group, MacArthur advised that the next meeting will be held November 20 (changed to November 12), at Minnie Howard School.

Eliot Bell-Krasner introduced visitors from Southeast Asia who are observing city government at work.

Linda Lovell reported that the Mortar & Pestle Society funded and manned an exhibit for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum at the National Association of Community Pharmacists Annual conference held at the Gaylord Convention Center.

Danny Smith announced this month's history discussion held at John Strongbow's Great Hall will be "Alexandria Surrenders to the British!" Proceeds will benefit Gadsby's Tavern Museum.

Susan Hellman announced the Del Ray Halloween parade and the Turkey Trot run on Thanksgiving.

The Athenaeum has completed the restoration of two windows. They held a successful membership party and will celebrate the 600th anniversary of Agincourt by showing the Kenneth Branagh "Henry V" film.

ACVA announced the City of Alexandria Halloween activities and gave an update on "Mercy Street".

Carlyle House reported that the 'Zombie' event was a success. The next events will be "The Death and Funeral of John Carlyle", a behind the scenes tour with a curator and trick-or-treating on Halloween.

Alexandria Association had their initial meeting and lecture. The featured talk was on Pennsylvania-German Art.

The next lecture for the Alexandria Historical Society will be "Slave Labor in the Capitol: Building Washington's Iconic Federal Landmarks" to be held at the Lyceum on October 28, 2015. It was also announced this year members of the Society will enjoy a private reception with the speaker.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission announced that City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg gave a lecture on the City Archaeology Code – what it really covers and how it works. Fran will also give a tour of Freedman's Cemetery to members of the National Trust in November.

Additionally, members of the National Trust will receive training in the GIS system the city has designed for historic buildings. This training will be conducted by Michele Oaks. Following the training, the individuals will be hosted to lunch by the Alley Survey group. During lunch, provided by the Historic Alexandria Foundation, Michael Commissio will present the results of the survey group.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at Lloyd House on Nov. 17, 2015 at 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lovell, member of HARC
J. Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA