

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 16, 2016

PRESENT:

Melinda Barnes
Jolande Goldberg
Martha Harris
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson

Vanessa Herndon
Laura Lieberman
Linda Lovell
Ann Marie Maloney
Elizabeth McCall
Carolyn Meza
McArthur Myers
Gail Rothrock

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

EXCUSED: Michael Commisso, Dennis Hensley

UNEXCUSED:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hendrickson at 7:35pm

The minutes from the February meeting were approved with the following correction: Chairman Hendrickson's name was corrected, on page 2 in the fifth line of the second paragraph the word "accessed" was replaced with assessed. Also on page 2 in the third paragraph, the sentence beginning "Elizabeth" should read: Elizabeth asked if the fact that these buildings were not built to the same code was used in the evaluation. Martha Harris motioned that the minutes be approved as corrected, Gail Rothrock seconded.

Ramsey Homes

Chairman Hendrickson reported that permutations of the current plan will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. With public housing subsidies being dramatically cut ARHA has faced difficulty in funding the required public housing. The City requires that housing be sustainable on sight rather than spread throughout the city. Alternative options are being studied. One option is retaining two of the existing units with a new, larger structure in the middle. Susan Hellman stated that option 3 was to retain only one of the original buildings as affordable housing. Elliot Bell-Krasner commended Chairman Hendrickson, Gail Rothrock and McArthur Myers for their comments before City Council. Al Cox added that Bill was quite articulate and well represented HARC. One item noted by Bill was that the ARHA proposal had been made without proper historic evaluation. Councilman Chapman requested HARC look into that concern. It was noted that the City has no policy to protect historic sites under 100 years old unless they fall within the two historic districts. However, Ramsey Homes are in the Parker-Gray Historic District which had denied ARHA's application for demolition. Gail Rothrock noted that she felt that the master plan for a situation like this was set in 2008, with the James Bland decision. City Council has approved the zoning change and master plan amendment, but not the development special-use permit. This is what the Planning Commission also voted to deny. The decision regarding the Ramsey Homes has been tabled by City Council until further review.

Bill Hendrickson opined that many in the City feel the process has been flawed. Susan Hellman motioned, that HARC become a consulting party on the 'Section-106' process for Ramsey Homes. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth McCall and approved unanimously. City Council has approved the zoning change and master plan amendment, but not the development special-use permit. This is also what the Planning Commission also voted to deny.

OHA STRATEGIC PLAN

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Historic Alexandria's (OHA) two major fundraising issues for 2016 are:

- preservation and conservation of the 18th century boat recently discovered at the waterfront; and
- two pieces of historic fire-fighting equipment at Friendship Firehouse Museum.

All Office of Historic Alexandria sites will join with Alexandria Archaeology and Friendship Firehouse Museum to fundraise during 'Spring2ACTion' this April.

Lance Mallamo gave an overview of the current OHA Departmental Strategic Plan FY 2012-2016. When the OHA museum achieved national accreditation, the independent accreditation board report did have two criticisms. There was no source of non-City, continuing funding for the historic sites – no endowment, or strategic strategy to develop private funding to supplement City resources. The only source of income is the annual City budget which has been subject to reductions in previous years affecting all City departments. One of the accomplishments for OHA has been the funding and hiring of a full-time Deputy Director whose main responsibility

is developing new or expanding existing sources of revenue. Funding to hire a Development consultant for fundraising has also been authorized this year.

There is a departmental commitment to increase the annual percentage rate of donations, grants, gifts and volunteer hours by 5% each year to supplement the annual operating budget until it reaches a level of fifty per cent. In the past four years the rate has increased from 20% to 35%. There was also a successful request to fund a full time Administrative Assistant III from part-time to concentrate on private rental revenues throughout the historic sites in FY 2016. Request for the conversion of a part-time Research Historian to full-time, in order pursue grants for research in the Immigration Alexandria project is included in the City Manager's proposed budget for FY 2017, as is the request for the funding of a part-time web master and Records Clerk in the Archives division. The City Manager is also requesting annual funding of \$50,000 for the recent archaeology discoveries. While there will be up to a 5% budget reduction on non-personnel expenses in OHA, there will be no reduction in personnel.

Certain fundraising programs have been discontinued or deferred, such as, the Alexandria Forum and the annual museum gala as they were not always profitable. Other ideas are to establish an invested endowment, promote family friendly events and sponsoring events such as an antique show. Martha Harris asked about using the Community Matching Fund to enhance any donations. Eliot suggested a subcommittee devoted to fundraising. Elizabeth McCall noted that the Establishment of Endowments requires a professional fundraiser. Gail Rothrock and she noted that there should be a fund to which developers and the public could contribute, perhaps have a list of specific items to adopt.

Member Reports

Elizabeth McCall noted that the Confederate renaming committee is still gathering information.

Carlyle House will be hosting a lecture on Civil War nurses with the Lyceum. They also noted that NOVA has restarted negotiations with the City concerning the Joe Reeder house. Susan Hellmann expressed her gratitude to Archaeology and OHA for accepting the Carlyle House archaeology collection into storage at the Payne Street facility.

The Torpedo Factory may be in a restructuring phase, which would involve the streamlining of three agencies.

The Athenaeum is very busy with lectures and their renovation work is continuing.

Lee-Fendall is having a prohibition-themed fundraiser on May 21, 2016. Tickets will be \$50.

The City is hosting preservation lectures and workshops throughout the city in the months of April, May and June.

Chairman Hendrickson adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lovell, member of HARC

J. Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA

