

MINUTES

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016

PRESENT:

Michael Commisso
Jolande Goldberg
Martha Harris
Susan Hellman
William Hendrickson

Linda Lovell
Elizabeth McCall
McArthur Myers
Gail Rothrock
Allen Schirmer

Danny Smith
Nancy Tingen
Tobin Tracey
Richard Webber
Margaret Wood

EXCUSED: 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, Bill Hendrickson at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairman introduced new member, John Dumsick. Mr. Dumsick is the new representative of Carlyle House. Mr. Dumsick gave a brief introduction to the group on his professional background. He is the co-chair of the Preservation Engineering Committee and he is a structural engineer who specializes in historical properties.

Chairman Hendrickson informed members that there are multiple vacancies on HARC including Planning District One (former Chair, Elliot Bell-Krasner moved to a different Planning District), Masonic Temple, Christ Church, Public Records Advisory Committee and ACVA.

Also the category "Citizen", which was filled by Anna Stillner (who recently resigned) needs to be clarified and the vacancies advertised next month.

Ms. Lovell suggested that some of the associations that have vacancies on HARC may not know they have a spot on HARC if they had a change in leadership. It would be beneficial for the City to reach out to these associations/groups and inform them that they have a HARC vacancy.

Approval of Minutes of the June meeting, as amended, was motioned by Gail Rothrock and seconded by McArthur Myers.

Elizabeth McCall asked that her comment in the minutes be taken out because she did not remember making such a statement. The Chairman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. McArthur Meyers 2nd the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary

There are two nominees for Vice-Chair of HARC: Elizabeth McCall and McArthur Meyers. McArthur Meyers withdrew his candidacy for Vice-Chair. Gail Rothrock made a motion for HARC to accept Elizabeth McCall as Vice-Chair of HARC. Mike Commisso 2nd the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

The person who was elected Secretary at the last meeting had resigned from HARC, which has created a vacancy for that office. Linda Lovell made a motion to nominate Nancy Tingen as HARC Secretary. The motion was seconded by Gail Rothrock and the motion passed unanimously.

Reeder House

OHA received a grant for \$900,000.00 to purchase the Reeder House; however, that makes a shortfall of \$350,000.00. OHA is working on a fundraising strategy to meet the \$350,000.00 goal. The remaining funds to purchase the home must be paid off in three years. The current owner of the Reeder House will continue to live on the property after the City makes the purchase and he will be considered the “resident curator.” The contents of the house may or may not be part of this purchase. OHA is currently working on a strategic plan for the Reeder House property. The former owner of the Reeder House donated eight pieces of original furniture to OHA and it is being housed at the storage facility. Bill Dickinson was the person who was responsible for identifying the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant program to acquire the Reeder House.

Ramsey Homes

City Council (with Council Member Paul Smedberg and Mayor Silberberg changing their initial votes) voted in favor of demolition in June 2016.

Gail Rothrock attended the recent Section 106 Process Meeting. Her observations: Members of the public that attended complained about the Council’s vote in favor of the demolition. The Historic American Buildings Survey includes documentation on the Ramsey Homes and is located at the Library. The final report should be released in about two to three weeks. The next meeting on the Ramsey Homes site will be mid-October. January 2017 will most likely be the next Section 106 meeting. HARC should weigh in before the next Section 106 meeting.

Mrs. Rothrock discussed the need for historic interpretation of the site to include precast construction panels, audio tours, funding for grants to preserve the Parker Grey community, and scholarships for further research. These types of projects should be paid for by ARHA or the City of Alexandria. Artifacts dating back to the Civil War are likely underneath the Ramsey site. Various members expressed their concern that the Section 106 process should have been done first before ARHA prepared and submitted their architectural plans to the City.

A discussion about exploring Section 110 took place. It was discussed that 110 prevents organizations from obtaining federal funding if there is evidence that the organization tried circumventing the 106 process. Interested HARC members will research if there is a legal precedent and will inquire with the advisory council.

Two meetings already happened last week and the State Historic Preservation Office representative heard that a preservation strategy was arranged, but rejected by City Council.

Confederate Memorials and Street Names

City Council met this past Saturday and voted to change the name of the portion of Jefferson Davis Hwy that is located within the City of Alexandria as well as move the Appomattox Statue located on S. Washington Street. Meetings of the Confederate Memorial Sub Committee were contentious; however, the group came to the consensus that the City Council should support adding to the historical interpretation of the City, not take away from its historical fabric. HARC's position regarding Council's decision was discussed. Mrs. Rothrock suggested HARC write a letter to Council expressing our disagreement with their decision. McArthur Meyers made a motion to table HARC's position on the street names and memorials until October's meeting. Susan Hellman 2nd the motion and the motion passed unanimously. It would take two pieces of legislation to pass the General Assembly in order to move the Appomattox statue.

HARC Website

Suggestions for improvements to the HARC website were discussed. Chairman Hendrickson expressed his desire for the website to list meeting agendas, meeting minutes, annual reports, links to key documents like the waterfront plan and other information that would be helpful for new HARC members.

Subcommittee Meeting on Historic Preservation Strategy

The date for the next subcommittee meeting on HARC's historic preservation strategy is set for 8:00 a.m., September 29, 2016. The meeting will take place at Lloyd House.

Members were encouraged to look at the OHA/HARC priorities report from 2007 and be ready to discuss what priorities were accomplished, not accomplished and what priorities were left out of the 2007 report. HARC retreat is set for 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 28, 2017. Meeting will take place at Lloyd House

Member Reports

Michael Commisso informed the group that the Alexandria Historical Restoration & Preservation Committee is having issues with a City resident (homeowner) who is attempting to bypass the committee and go to the Board of Architectural Review to get a permit for construction on his property. AHRP is requesting clarification from the Attorney General's Office regarding legal representation.

The Athenaeum is holding an event on October 1, 2016.

Del Ray is holding Art on the Avenue on October 1, 2016.

The Torpedo Factory is holding an Edgar Allen Poe theatrical event through the end of October.

The Art League secured its lease for another three years. Details are still being worked out.

The Carlyle House is holding a whiskey tasting on October 22, 2016 from 7:00-9:00 pm Cost is \$50.00 per person.

HAF is holding a fundraising event on November 12, 2016. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of the Reeder House.

OHA UPDATES / STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Mallamo distributed a memo from the City Manager requesting Commission input on FY 2018 budget priorities.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Oct. 18, 7:30pm at Lloyd House

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Tingen, member of HARC
J. Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA