

# MINUTES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

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**PRESENT:**

**Elliot Bell-Krasner  
John Dumsick  
Michael Commisso  
William Hendrickson  
Jolande Goldberg  
Elizabeth McCall  
Keith Moore**

**Laura Lieberman  
Elizabeth McCall  
McArthur Myers  
Gail Rothrock  
Martha Harris  
Thomas Soule  
Shawn Eyre**

**Danny Smith  
Nancy Tingen  
Tobin Tracey  
Margaret Wood  
Linda Lovell  
Stephen Damm**

**EXCUSED: Hellman**

**UNEXCUSED: Webber**

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

**GUESTS: Al Cox, P&Z Department/Historic Preservation  
Mark F. Pretzet, Larry Goldberg**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW HARC MEMBERS**

The Chairman informed the group that HARC has a new member, Shawn Eyer, representing the Masonic Memorial. HARC has six outstanding vacancies.

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2017 MINUTES & HARC RETREAT MINUTES**

Members reviewed the February 21, 2017 minutes and the March 4, 2017 retreat minutes. Minor amendments were made. Michael Commisso made a motion to approve the February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Danny Smith, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **MARCH 4, 2017 HARC RETREAT FOLLOWUP & PRIORITY SETTING**

The point of the HARC retreat was to set specific priorities for 2017 and beyond. Of the many items discussed (see attachment), there was general consensus that HARC should focus on the Torpedo Factory, Northern VA Urban League (building and museum), alternative funding sources and recruiting volunteers.

### *Torpedo Factory*

Jolande Goldberg provided a handout to the group (info on this handout was included in the February minutes). The Chairman asked Mrs. Goldberg for her opinion on how HARC could help with the Torpedo Factory. She suggested HARC invite Diane Ruggiero to speak at a HARC meeting and for HARC to come up with arguments that the Torpedo Factory contributes both direct and indirect economic benefits to the City of Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory draws tourism which is an example of a direct economic benefit to the City. She also suggested that one or two HARC members attend the community outreach meetings.

### *Northern VA Urban League*

There is concern that the museum may close and the building could go up for sale. Mr. Myers has inquired with the Urban League and is awaiting a response. He suggested that HARC send a formal letter of inquiry to the Urban League. A lengthy discussion took place. The Chairman agreed to send an email to see if there is a threat that the museum could close, if they are contemplating selling the building, and see if they want or need any assistance from HARC.

### *Alternative Sources of Funding for Historic Preservation*

HARC member, Danny Smith agreed to lead a group to research this topic. Elliot Bell-Krasner said that many historical organizations/sites have social media pages and participate in crowd sourced funding. The 'Spring2Action' fundraising event on April 5<sup>th</sup> is a good example of a source of alternative funding. Mike Commisso suggested researching grant funding options. The Bib and Tucker Ball raised \$25, 000.00.

The Apothecary Museum is the only City owned museum that has an endowment.

Mr. Bell-Krasner made a motion for HARC to establish a subcommittee to strategize alternative sources of funding. Indy McCall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The subcommittee will consist of Danny Smith, Linda Lovell, Martha Harris, Elizabeth McCall and Keith Moore.

### *Recruiting Volunteers*

There is a shortage of young volunteers and a large population of aging docents. Gadsby's Tavern has a good junior volunteer docent program where the kids come on the weekends and lead tours. Mr. Bell-Krasner suggested that HARC partner with PTA's of public and private schools and inform them about the educational opportunities that go along with volunteering to be a junior docent in a local museum. Parents might even become interested in volunteering.

Laura Lieberman suggested HARC members reach out to local DAR chapters.

Margaret Wood suggested HARC reach out to the Federation of Civic Associations.

Indy McCall informed the group that Archaeology has a designated "preservation month" and HARC should come up with a designated "history month" where OHA showcases certain historical events/themes.

## **DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LETTER ON PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN DEALING WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Due to time constraints, this topic will be added to the April 2017 meeting agenda.

### **OHA UPDATES**

Since Lance was not in attendance at this meeting, this agenda item was skipped.

### **MEMBER REPORTS**

The Friends of Carlyle House are concerned about the waterpark lease ending in 2020 and the possibility that the City may take control over the property. Currently the City is surveying citizens for other possible uses of this site. Braddock Day celebrations will be held 12-4 p.m. on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Lee-Fendall House is having a Civil War walking tour on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Easter egg hunt April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, and the annual fundraiser will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The fundraiser's theme is "bourbon in the basement."

"Attics and Alley" tours will be every weekend in May. Apothecary Museum fundraiser is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Masonic Temple. Fundraiser theme is "dinner through the ages."

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the Black History Museum will hold a lecture on the Ramsey Homes. Mr. Myers will attend the Fort Ward meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

Masonic Temple is undergoing a lengthy restoration project of two large murals in the main room. The murals were painted by Allen Cox.

American Council of Political Leaders will visit some sites in Alexandria and will be observing the HARC meeting in May.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., April 18, 2017 at Lloyd House.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Tingen, Recording Secretary, HARC

Nicole Quinn, OHA staff ( for J.Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA)