

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16th, 2018
Lloyd House

PRESENT:

John Dumsick	Linda Lovell	Gail Rothrock
Martha Harris	Elizabeth McCall	Danny Smith
Bill Hendrickson	Maddy McCoy	Nancy Tingen
Elliot Bell-Krasner	Krystyn Moon	Tobin Tracey
Kelly Spradely-Kurowski		

EXCUSED: Liebermann, Stuart

ABSENT: Damm, Eyer, Goldberg, Moore, Barnes

CITY STAFF: Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Al Cox, Planning
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Danny Smith at 7:03 pm at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for December 19th, 2017 Meeting

Approval of Minutes for December 19th minutes was postponed.

Chairs Update and Discussions

Save Our Ship

Vote at www.vatop10artifacts.org to raise funds for the conservation of the 18th century ship.
First place - \$5000. Second place - \$4000.

Vernacular Architecture Forum
2018 Annual Conference, May 2-5

Tobin Tracy, on behalf of his spouse Andrea reported that VAF is looking for volunteers to help with walking tours in Old Town, Alexandria; currently ten properties. Also, looking for help with registration at Crowne Plaza in Old Town.

Volunteers can attend the conference for free. OHA will be participating.

Freedom House Tours

OHA will hold tours 1-5PM.

Audrey Davis has offered to give a special/private tour for HARC members.

HARC voted to reserve the Feb. 10th, 9-10am tour. Anyone that cannot attend should email Audrey Davis directly.

Freedom House Museum Update

A decision has not been made regarding the outcome of Freedom House and their long-term plans. Fortunately, their mortgage company has given them an extension. Gretchen Bulova stated that meetings are taking place and that she will have more information in a couple of weeks. Elizabeth McCall confirmed the situation is temporarily contained; actively looking for a solution. Currently, there is no threat of losing the building/museum. City staff is involved with this matter.

Board of Architectural Review Code

City Council had instructed BAR and staff to review the code. It has been determined that the code is working as intended; no changes need to be made. HARC discussed whether the guidelines are being effectively communicated to the public. Information could be distributed more frequently. Perhaps quarterly and/or along with annual property tax assessments.

402 South Pitt Street:

Council is requiring home owners to remove the paint on the masonry front façade that was applied without the required permission of the BAR. There is uncertainty about how this will be enforced. Home owners have not yet appealed to the court.

Cameron Run Regional Park Decision – Implications for Carlyle House?

The NOVA Parks lease for Cameron Run Regional Park will be up in 2021. Council has decided not to renew their lease. Carlyle House is currently owned by NOVA Parks. Revenue is collected from all NOVA Parks facilities and then shared. If the lease for Cameron Run Regional Park is lost, Carlyle House may be affected. The implications for Carlyle House have not yet been determined. These issues will be addressed in the OHA Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for January 24 at the Lyceum.

420 South Lee – Appeal of BAR Decision

Gail Rothrock announced there will be a public hearing on Saturday, February 24th. Danny Smith volunteered to attend and represent HARC again. He will be making a statement similar to the one he made on behalf of HARC at the December 20, 2017 meeting of the Old and Historic Alexandria District Board of Architectural Review. At that meeting the BAR voted unanimously to deny the applicant's proposal.

On a motion by Gail Rothrock and seconded by Elliot Bell-Krasner, HARC voted to have Danny Smith present a similar statement at the appeal of the BAR decision during the City Council hearing on February 24th.

Combined Sewer System:

Elizabeth McCall opened the discussion. The original plan may be changed. The city is debating whether to use containment tanks or tunnels. The containment tanks will not be treatment stations. The water will be held and then pumped back to Renew Alexandria for treatment prior to release. If the decision is to use tunnels, the drilling underneath Old Town will cause vibration which has implications for historic structures, but the containment tanks are believed to be more cost effective. Representatives from the Environmental Commission, Old Town Civic Association, Archaeology Department, and various other Old Town organizations seem to be in favor of the tanks. HARC members are not currently represented on the working group. HARC should have a member in attendance at the meetings. The Archaeology Department has been involved to determine whether there will be an archaeological disruption. John Dumsick volunteered to attend the meetings because of his engineering experience.

Action Item:

Elizabeth McCall will let John Dumsick know when the next meeting is to be held.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports; Status of Chair Elections:

OHA and Planning Support:

Linda Lovell was elected Chair. The committee will be attending the Strategic Planning Meeting on January 24th.

Advocacy and Preservation Committee

Tobin Tracey opened the discussion. The committee has reached out to various people/organizations to find out their needs.

Alfred Street Baptist Church:

The City has just started an Housing Affordability Study along Route 1 South (from Duke Street to the Beltway,) and two complexes owned by the church are included. Unsure how the study will affect the historic district. HARC should stay involved. Elizabeth McCall noted the housing development will be dense and multi-storied. Al Cox elaborated on the hydrology issue that the church is currently dealing with; an underground river has been located, which will interfere with the parking garage construction. Regarding archaeology, Elizabeth McCall added that Thunderbird Archaeology will be hired for the project. So far, nothing substantial has been uncovered. There are no indications of burial sites. Al Cox confirmed there were significant archaeological studies performed when the sanctuary was built.

Chain Businesses – Taco Bell:

Tobin Tracey continued his briefing, announcing a Taco Bell Cantina (serves alcohol) will be moving into Old Town on King Street. In the past five years, more chains have been moving into Old Town. Asana Partners have purchased twenty properties. Their plan is transform Old Town

into a mall district destination.

Visit Alexandria:

Visit Alexandria is interested in meeting with HARC to learn how to better advertise/promote historic properties.

George Washington Middle School:

The school has not responded to requests for applying to The National Register of Historic Places. Bill Hendrickson noted there have been changes in staff and the superintendent has recently left. Al Cox added the contacts keep changing within the school which makes progress difficult. There needs to be greater outside support regarding this matter, especially from preservation groups. Bill Hendrickson offered to talk with school board members. He will explain the implications of being registered. Krystyn Moon mentions the school has an archivist; could be a good contact.

National Trust Letter:

A letter from Ashely Wilson who works for the National Trust for Historic Preservation was reviewed/discussed regarding preservation strategies for the City of Alexandria. Martha Harris (to whom the letter was addressed) suggests that HARC engage with Ashley Wilson and begin an ongoing dialogue. She offered to stay in contact with Ashley Wilson and will report back to HARC regarding their correspondence. HARC agreed that maintaining historic properties is their focus.

Educational Outreach:

John Dumsick presented on behalf of the committee. A chair has not been selected, but the committee has been discussing ideas for educational outreach: workshops, presentations, and articles. Will have more to report by the next meeting.

Waterfront Plans – African-American Heritage Plans:

Elizabeth McCall presented on behalf of the committee. Their third meeting will be held Thursday, January 18th. A list of sites has been made. There are existing trails and their desire is to connect other trails. At the meeting they will discuss how everything will come together. There will be an option to select sites you want to visit, depending on topics. There will be recommended trails for lesson plans and the option to personalize a trail. There will be multiple sources available; ex. mobile app. The electronics should be in place by next fall. Freedom House and The Black History Museum will be included. Members of the group include: Gretchen Bulova, Councilman John Chapman, Audrey Davis, Elizabeth McCall, Maddy McCoy, and McArthur Myer.

Interim Fitzgerald Square Project:

Martha Harris expressed there should be a history element included at this site. Elizabeth McCall clarified that Fitzgerald Square is a temporary installation. Bill Hendrickson suggested a temporary kiosk that could explain the waterfront plans. Gretchen Bulova agreed that there should be a historic interpretation also, notes that Fitzgerald Square is not the permanent name. There will be a process for public input; the goal is to begin soliciting names by March 1st.

On a motion by Martha Harris, seconded by Elizabeth McCall HARC voted to prepare a letter to the City Manager strongly supporting a significant history element be incorporated in the plans for the Interim Fitzgerald Park.

Action Item:

The letter needs to be sent to the City Manager, right away.

OHA Updates:

Gretchen Bulova

Acting Director, Office of Historic Alexandria:

Strategic Planning Meeting

January 24th 6:30pm at The Lyceum. HARC is invited to attend.

OHA's FY 2019 Budget

Top priorities include funding for the 18th century ship, Mr. Reeder's house, Interim Fitzgerald Square Project, and restoring positions that were cut last year.

Torpedo Factory – Late Shift Event

February 23rd

Historic Alexandria takes over the Torpedo Factory. There will be booths, 18th century ballroom dancing, and other activities. The purpose is to attract a new dynamic audience. There is a need for volunteers.

World War I Commemoration

A new WWI exhibit is on display at The Lyceum. In November, there will be an event at the Masonic Memorial. Will be reaching out to different organizations to partner with.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum:

On January 7th, pipes burst at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. There has been significant damage to the chandelier and piano in the assembly room. The site will be closed until the end of January; needs time to dry out. All programs scheduled in the ballroom will continue.

Archaeology Department:

Vote for Archaeology. Save Our Ship.

Run by the Virginia Association of Museums.

\$5000 for first place (most votes.) Will increase visibility of VAM and Alexandria's 18th century merchant ship. You can vote until Jan. 24th.

Spring to Action, April 25th

Collective museum fundraising initiative. This will be a day of giving to support museums and HARC is welcome to be involved.

'Hamilton' Musical:

'Hamilton' will be coming to the Kennedy Center this summer. OHA is participating in a 'Hamilton' regional programming partnership. There will be an exhibit at the Kennedy Center to showcase museums in the Washington metropolitan area. So far, The Lyceum will exhibit

costumes and offer specialty lectures. Gadsby's Tavern Museum will be providing specialty tours.

Preservation Month will be held in May.

The Providence Ship

A replica of America's first warship in the Continental Navy will be docked at the waterfront.

Commissioners Updates:

Krystyn Moon, Alexandria Historical Society

March 28th

Dr. Nancy Davis gives a lecture at The Lyceum, 'William Ramsay and Business in Eighteenth Century Alexandria.'

May 23rd

Andrew Freedman, author of *Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of US Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia*.

June 27th.

Event at the Masonic Memorial. Will provide further information as the event develops.

Margaret Wood, Area 1

St. Mary Church has been named "The Basilica of Saint Mary."

Robinson Terminal South

Will begin digging/construction of the first section. There will be a break to allow the Archaeology Department in. Al Cox confirmed the foundation stones will not be used for benches along parks. EYA wants to use a more refined stone.

John Dumsick, Carlyle House

Over 500 people attended Soldier's Christmas

John Carlyle's Birthday is Feb. 3rd.

Taking down the Civil War exhibits; new exhibits focusing on Carlyle House will be put up.

Ramsay Homes

The city has circulated plans of deconstruction of one house.

Jan. 29th, general contractors will start removing finishes.

Feb. 5th, Wetland Studies and Solutions will document the existing structure.

Feb 9th and 10th, open house for tours. Personal protective equipment is required.

Maddy McCoy, District 2

Announced on the behalf of Steve Stuart that the West End Park and Planning Forum will be held Jan. 21st from 7-9pm at Patrick Henry Recreational Center. Steve Stuart will attend.

Elizabeth McCall,

The Archaeology Volunteer Night was successful. The Volunteer Award was given to the entire

ship packing team of 55. Mary Jane Nugent was given the Glazer Award for being the most devoted volunteer over time.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission