

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 19, 2018

PRESENT:

John Dumsick	Elizabeth McCall	Gail Rothrock
William Hendrickson	Maddy McCoy	Danny Smith
Elliot Bell-Krasner	Krystyn Moon	Monica St. Dennis
Kelly Spradley-Kurowski	Severiano Ortiz	Stephen Stuart
Linda Lovell	Nancy Tingen	

EXCUSED: Jolande Goldberg, Laura Lieberman, Martha Harris, Tobin Tracey, Melinda Barnes

ABSENT: Stephen Damm, Shawn Eyer, Keith Moore

CITY STAFF: Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Garrett Fesler, OHA
Al Cox, BAR
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

GUESTS: Mitchell Bernstein, DPI
Doug Chapin, Alexandria Renew
Caitlin Feehan, Alexandria Renew
Janice Magnuson, Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Susan Mitchell, Alexandria Renew
Ivy Whitlatch, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McCall at 7:05 p.m. at Lloyd House.

Approval of Minutes for May 15, 2018 Meeting

On a motion by, Gail Rothrock seconded by Krystyn Moon, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the May 15th meeting.

Alexandria ReNew, “Wet Weather Program” Presentation

Caitlin Feehan, PE, LEED AP | Program Manager provided information about the Combined Sewer System on behalf of Alexandria Renew Enterprises. A copy of the presentation will be emailed to all Commissioners.

Chairs Update

Elizabeth McCall updated that the African American Heritage Trail has been meeting. The group is looking at technology options for the tour.

Waterfront – Interim Park

Request by Diane Ruggiero: “The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts would like to invite up to two (2) representatives from the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission (HARC) and up to two (2) representatives from the Archaeology Commission to participate in a focus group discussion with the artist Mike Szivos of SOFT-lab, selected by the Site/See Task Force and the Arts Commission to create the first project in this exhibition series. The focus group will take place on Thursday, June 21 at 7pm at City Hall.”

John Dumsick and Kelly Spradley-Kurowski volunteered to represent HARC. HARC voted and approved.

AAC Meeting 6:30 PM, June 20. Interim Park. 0 King Street.

BAR Update – Council Proposal on Consolidation

Al Cox announced public meetings will be held in late July, and September. One will be held at City Hall and the other at Charles Houston.

Updates/Discussion:

Freedom House Museum

Gretchen Bulova confirmed that the loan agreement between the City and the Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL) has been signed. The MOU regarding museum management is still in progress. OHA will continue to staff the site through December. The museum is open to the public on weekends, 1 to 5 p.m. with group tours offered by appointment during the week. Bulova has applied for a planning grant from the National Trust and is working with the NVUL on developing a fundraising team.

Ramsey Homes

Al Cox will designate materials from the Ramsey Homes that should be preserved before the demolition of all the homes is complete. Gretchen Bulova confirmed there is a facility available to store the materials.

Torpedo Factory

No update.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports

OHA and Planning Support

Linda Lovell noted that Metro will close their Yellow and Blue lines next summer (King Street Station will be closed). This will affect tourism in Old Town. Gretchen Bulova confirmed that Visit Alexandria as well as Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is aware of the closures and working on alternatives.

Advocacy and Preservation

William Hendrickson updated HARC on the Del Ray firehouse. The station will be used for temporary storage. Al Cox confirmed it will not be abandoned. Hendrickson suggested HARC reach out to the new city council members. Gretchen Bulova confirmed there will be an orientation. Elizabeth McCall agreed, suggesting HARC create an informational packet. McCall

requested the Advocacy and Preservation Sub-Committee begin including city docket updates with their reports.

Finance

Danny Smith reported on the ongoing initiative to create a private organization that would contribute towards preservation in Alexandria. Only a possibility/discussion at this point.

Elizabeth McCall directed a question to Al Cox regarding properties in the Old and Historic District. McCall suggested adding a notification within tax assessments that would alert new home owners about their historic properties. Al Cox agreed with McCall and offered to follow up on the idea.

OHA Report

Gretchen Bulova reported statistics for FY2018, ending June 30, 2018.

- 200,000 visitors to the OHA museums
- 14,000 volunteer hours
- \$621,000 earned in revenue from public programming, tours, and rentals
- Friends groups collectively donated \$52,000 to the OHA museums
- 400 public programs were offered
- Five exhibits were installed

Looking ahead to FY19:

- Budget of \$4 million (2.2% increase from FY18)
- Received three supplementals:
 - Murray-Dick Fawcett House - \$24,000
 - King Street Interim Park - \$25,000
 - Gadsby's Tavern Museum - .5 FTE restored to the budget

FY19 Plans:

- CIP funding for exterior painting of most sites
- Finalizing strategic plan.
- Department re-organization.
- King Street Park – signs, interpretation, and public programming.
- Godspeed – Public tours on October 13th & 14th.
- Looking at the possibility of bringing other tall ships to Alexandria.
- Freedom House – partnership to increase visibility and improve interpretation and marketing efforts
- WWI Commemoration will culminate with a program on November 11th
- Acquisitions:
 - Portraits – Rebecca Ramsey Reese and Richard Arrell
 - Irwin Papers for Gadsby's Tavern
 - Narrative of Mary S. Peake
 - Alexandria Sampler, 1824

Commissioner Updates

Mortar and Pestle Society – Linda Lovell

- Old Town Crier – Negative comments regarding the Apothecary Museum in the May 31, 2018 “Hemp’s Hectic History” article.

Alexandria Historical Society – Krystyn Moon

- AHS Lecture – “Exploring the History of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial” 7 p.m., June 27th at the Masonic Memorial

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee - Danny Smith

- Presented a photo album to Mayor Silberberg of her attending almost every celebration of George Washington’s birthday in February of this year.
- “Walking with Washington Tour” relaunched – only in February as of now; possibility of continuing year-round.
- Funding for GW birthday celebrations are costly - \$50-60,000/year. In the process of setting up a 501(c)(3) to enhance fundraising capabilities.

Historic Alexandria Foundation – Gail Rothrock

Grants were extended to the following organizations:

- The Athenaeum - \$10,000 (for restoration of the west façade)
- Garden Club of Alexandria - \$10,000 (for restoration of the Ramsey House garden)
- Lee-Fendall-House Museum - \$5,000 (for restoration of the masonry)
- Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum - \$5,000 (for digital floor-mats)

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission