

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, August 21, 2018

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**PRESENT:**

Melinda Barnes	Laura Lieberman	Gail Rothrock
John Dumsick	Linda Lovell	Danny Smith
Jolande Goldberg	Elizabeth McCall	Monica St. Dennis
Martha Harris	Maddy McCoy	Stephen Stuart
Bill Hendrickson	Keith Moore	Nancy Tingen
Kelly Spradley-Kurowski	Severiano Ortiz	Tobin Tracey

**EXCUSED:**

**ABSENT:** Shawn Eyer  
Krystyn Moon  
Elliot Bell-Krasner

**CITY STAFF:** Eleanor Breen, OHA  
Al Cox, BAR  
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McCall at 7:09 p.m. at Lloyd House.

**Approval of Minutes for July 17, 2018 Meeting**

On a motion by, Gail Rothrock seconded by Tobin Tracey, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting.

**September Officer Elections**

**Nominations Committee**

Linda Lovell opened the discussion. In order to stand for election, a commission member must have been sworn in by the City Clerk as the official representative of their seat. Also, only official members of the commission may vote in the election. The vote will be a hand vote and the official count will be recorded. Anyone wishing to run for Chair or Secretary should notify Linda Lovell, Laura Lieberman or Stephen Stuart.

**Annual Report**

On a motion by Stephen Stuart, seconded by Maddy McCoy, HARC voted to submit corrections for the Draft Annual Report to Danny Smith and Elizabeth McCall by Tuesday, August 28. Changes were suggested by Bill Hendrickson, Tobin Tracey, and Martha Harris and Danny committed to making the suggested changes in the final report.

## **Membership Update**

There are currently multiple vacancies for HARC Commission Members (Visit Alexandria, Preservation of Black History, Chamber of Commerce, etc.). Stephen Stuart asked how HARC can encourage full participation and ensure the open slots are filled while promoting racial diversity. He suggested adding this as a goal to the Annual Report.

Maddy McCoy suggested reaching out to the community via press release to educate the public about HARC.

Keith Moore and Danny Smith will compile a list of when other city organizations meet. Bill Hendrickson noted that within the community, there is a lack of interest in history from an advocacy and policy perspective.

## **Combined BAR Meeting Update**

BAR Consolidation Public Hearing

Monday, September 17

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Charles Houston Recreation Center

Residential land in the Old and Historic Alexandria and Parker Gray Historic Districts are separated by RB and RM zones. Al Cox would like to conduct a study on these zones to determine if they are still appropriate.

## **Waterfront**

### **Interim Park**

City Archaeologist, Eleanor Breen presented on this topic. City staff is working through potential options. Interpretative panels located at the marina will also be updated/replaced.

African American Heritage Trail - a waterfront walking trail which will highlight touchpoints of African American history. Focus will be on the waterfront, art, oral and community history.

Benjamin Skolnik, staff to the Archaeology Department works with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and is experimenting with Story Maps. Accessed by phone (not an app) users will be able to follow the trail and gain access to: brief text, touch points, pictures, scholarly articles, citations, etc. Linda Lovell mentioned there is currently signage at the Interim Park location that announces public art is coming soon. Linda suggested creating a similar notice for Portside History.

Martha Harris shared a short paper on potential history elements for the Waterfront Interim Park. She has shared it with the Advocacy Subcommittee, OHA and Parks and Rec. Her paper focuses on the many proposals over the years to make the area at the foot of King Street a historic “gateway.” She mentioned that the physical gateway could be temporary and linked to programming highlighting many people who have arrived and departed.

African American Heritage Trail Beta Test  
September 27th at 9pm

## **Trails Update/Ships Update**

Archeological Commission - Ships Subcommittee

Public meetings - every other Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the Archaeology Museum. A public survey has been created to gauge public interest of the four ships that have been discovered. A matrix is currently being developed of options and recommendations regarding the ships conservation/preservation and interpretation.

## **Additions to the Agenda:**

### **Christ Church - Historic Plaques**

Historic plaques of George Washington and Robert E. Lee will be removed from the sanctuary and relocated in the gift shop. A committee will be formed to determine how the plaques will be historically interpreted.

### **SOFTlab Letter**

The letter John Dumsick drafted to Mr. Szivos from SOFTlab regarding public art at Interim Park was reviewed by HARC members. Elizabeth McCall confirmed the letter will be sent.

## **Standing Sub-Committee Reports**

### **OHA and Planning Support**

The OHA subcommittee met on August 13 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Misha's Coffeehouse. Attending were Linda Lovell, Steve Stuart and Laura Lieberman. The meeting reviewed the binders being prepared for new HARC members. Laura Lieberman created a document, "About Alexandria Historic Sites and Entities Represented on the Commission." The draft was reviewed by HARC. There will be a separate list for OHA sites/museums. There will also be a map of the different planning districts. No date for a future meeting was set. While future meetings will still occur at Misha's Coffeehouse, Misha's will be moving to a new location.

### **Advocacy and Preservation**

Martha Harris opened the discussion. The Ramsey Homes video, "Ramsey Past and Present" needs to be updated on the Virginia Housing Development website. Oral history should begin.

### **Finance**

Danny Smith: help homeowners with properties falling into disrepair.

## **OHA Report**

Eleanor Breen presented the OHA report:

### **Waterfront - Interim Park King Street**

- Staff is working on interpretive elements, phased implementation.
- Plan to apply for CIP funding to create an implementation funding schedule for the full waterfront park.
- Park opening weekend October 12 - 14 with the Godspeed visit.
- OHA implementing "Portside History" as part of Visit Alexandria's park activation plan. Will also feature Portside Kids, Portside Fitness, Portside Art
  - Five Saturdays, October through November 17 (then pick up in March)
  - History/archaeology activities, 11 to 2 p.m.

### **Metro Temporary Closing in Summer of 2019**

- City work groups in process.
- Nothing new to report since July meeting.

### **Equal Justice Initiative Pillar**

- Received additional information from EJI last week.
- A lot of community interest in retrieving the Alexandria pillar.
- Process will pick-up in 2019.
- Gretchen Bulova is creating an action plan for HARC and community input

### **Strategic Plan**

- OHA senior staff has completed their portion of the project and is happy with the outcome.
- Next step is a small focus group review.
- Once that review has taken place, HARC will be asked for input

### **OHA Report**

- Search for OHA Director has begun, position is advertised nation-wide.
- Next public meeting regarding the Fort Ward Interpretive Plan is scheduled for September 13 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House.
- Restoration of the African-American Heritage Park is in progress. Concludes the end of September.
- Landscape plan being developed for The Lyceum and the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House.
- Revised the online OHA shop. Shop.alexandriava.gov
- The 2018 Historic Alexandria ornament will feature the Lee-Fendall House
- PBS series on Alexandria is re-airing now.

### **Commissioner Updates**

#### **Laura Lieberman - Lee-Fendall House**

August 24 - Trivia Nights at Historic Sites, 7:00 p.m.

Last Trivia Night of the year.

#### **Kelly Spradley-Kurowski - Old Town Civic Association**

September 12 - Book Release Party

Lloyd House, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

John Sprinkle's new book, Saving Spaces: Historic Land Conservation in the United States, provides an overview of historic preservation in America.

Tickets available on the online Historic Alexandria Shop

#### **Linda Lovell - Mortar and Pestle Society**

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will be closed August 30 for the Eyemat photography of the floors.

Election of officers at next Mortar and Pestle Society meeting.

#### **Jolande Goldberg - Torpedo Factory Artists Association**

The 2018 Fall/Winter Torpedo Factory Catalog has been released.

#### **Yoga & Sound**

9 - 10 a.m., Saturday morning, in the Main Hall.

Classes continue monthly through the Fall:

September 29 and October 27

\$10 ticket sale online, \$15 at the door.

**John Dumsick - Carlyle House**

**Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace**

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

September 4, 18, 25 and October 2

\$5 per class.

**Outlandish Fashion Show & Tea**

September 9, 2 - 4 p.m.

**Keith Moore - Christ Church**

**New Neighbors ELL Program**

Christ Church and The Campagna Center will provide English classes and services to immigrants and refugees who have settled in Alexandria and the Northern Virginia area. Classes will be held at Historic Christ Church every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon beginning September 10 - December 7. The program costs \$120, there are opportunities to sponsor students.

**Martha Harris - Historic Alexandria Docents**

Martha Harris suggested visiting the exhibit on slavery at Montpelier, *The Mere Distinction of Colour*.

**Danny Smith - Business Community (Co-Chair)**

The GW Walking Tour is currently running; experimenting with year-round tours.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission