

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, September 18, 2018

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**PRESENT:**

John Dumsick	Linda Lovell	Monica St. Dennis
Shawn Eyer	Elizabeth McCall	Danny Smith
Bill Hendrickson	Maddy McCoy	Stephen Stuart
Kelly Spradley-Kurowski	Severiano Ortiz	Tobin Tracey

**EXCUSED:**

Martha Harris  
Laura Lieberman  
Keith Moore  
Gail Rothrock

**ABSENT:**

Melinda Barnes  
Stephen Damm  
Jolande Goldberg  
Nancy Tingen  
Krystyn Moon

**CITY STAFF:**

Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Al Cox, BAR  
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**Approval of Minutes for August 21, 2018 Meeting**

On a motion by, Monica St. Dennis seconded by Stephen Stuart, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2018 meeting.

**Officer Elections – Nomination Committee Presiding**

Chairman of the Nominating Committee: Linda Lovell

Linda Lovell opened the nominations of Co-Chairs.

**Nominations for Co-Chair: Danny Smith**

Number of votes in favor: 11

John Dumsick	Maddy McCoy
Shawn Eyer	Severiano Ortiz
Bill Hendrickson	Monica St. Dennis
Kelly Spradley-Kurowski	Stephen Stuart
Linda Lovell	Tobin Tracey
Elizabeth McCall	

Number of votes against: 0

Danny Smith was elected Co-Chair.

**Nominations for Co-Chair: Elizabeth McCall**

Number of votes in favor: 11

John Dumsick  
Shawn Eyer  
Bill Hendrickson  
Kelly Spradley-Kurowski  
Linda Lovell  
Maddy McCoy

Severiano Ortiz  
Danny Smith  
Monica St. Dennis  
Stephen Stuart  
Tobin Tracey

Number of votes against: 0

Elizabeth McCall was elected Co-Chair.

**Nominations for Vice Chair: Maddy McCoy**

Number of votes in favor: 11

- John Dumsick
- Shawn Eyer
- Bill Hendrickson
- Kelly Spradley-Kurowski
- Linda Lovell
- Elizabeth McCall
- Severiano Ortiz
- Danny Smith
- Monica St. Dennis
- Stephen Stuart
- Tobin Tracey

Number of votes against: 0

Maddy McCoy was elected Vice Chair.

**Nominations for Secretary: Stephen Stuart**

Number of votes in favor: 11

- John Dumsick
- Shawn Eyer
- Bill Hendrickson
- Kelly Spradley-Kurowski
- Linda Lovell
- Elizabeth McCall
- Maddy McCoy
- Severiano Ortiz
- Danny Smith
- Monica St. Dennis
- Tobin Tracey

Number of votes against: 0

Stephen Stuart was elected Secretary.

**Chairs Update**

Al Cox presented on several issues:

**Easement on 619 South Lee – Justice Hugo L. Black House**

State holds easement. Application has been submitted – restoration on the interior/exterior of the historic house.

Architect: Cunningham | Quill Architects

- Removing a 1980s shed roof addition on the North side – back to original flounder form.
- Removing the old, one story kitchen, replacing with new two-story replacement.
- Constructing a second addition and three-car garage to the south– will use the same Franklin Street gate entrance beside the existing carriage house.
- Removing large pool – will replace with a smaller pool.
- Removing tennis courts.
- Removing and restoring all but two windows (which are new.) Historic windows have already been sent out for restoration.

The kitchen, family room and garage will be new additions.

Tobin Tracey from the Advocacy and Preservation Sub-Committee noted that these new additions do not comply with the standards of an open space easement.

Open Discussion:

The BAR and the City do not review or interpret easements; they are agreements between the easement holder and the property owner.

There is a very short amount of time for the city to review easements. As of now, there is no state notification process to alert the city when an easement is submitted.

On a motion by Tobin Tracey, seconded by John Dumsick, HARC voted to draft a letter to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources asking them to reconsider their approval of the requested modification to the easement on 619 South Lee Street.

On a motion by Tobin Tracey, seconded by John Dumsick, HARC voted to draft a letter to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources requesting a mechanism be created for notifying Alexandria of tax credit applications, 106 reviews, and easement issues that are specific to the city.

Tobin Tracey will draft these letters by the next HARC meeting in October.

### **609 South Lee:**

The origin of this property was probably a flounder. A flounder house is constructed to have a lower floor, ceiling, and roofline on the back. This particular house looks as if it is sinking into the ground; proportions are not good. In 1967, three bays were built to the south. There is currently a five-bay center hall. Columns in the kitchen hold up brick on the second floor. There are no remains of the original flounder house.

Current issues and solution:

The mechanical system is poor. The house is set about twenty feet back from the street. Lee Street is a few feet above the first floor. In order to hide the new mechanical units (that will be placed on the roof) from visibility and improve the proportion of the house to make it look more Victorian, a 2ft 11in parapet along the front of the home is being proposed. The parapet will be an Alexandria style Victorian copper roof. The architect working on this project is Bud Adams.

### **Curbing in the City:**

T&ES (Transportation & Environmental Services) is installing new concrete handicap ramps that meet the federal ADA requirements. White tactile strips will also be installed on the concrete ramps leading to the brick sidewalk.

Issues:

- Old radii are 5 feet, new are 15 feet; the increase is unnecessary.
- Some of the old stones from the curbs had been stacked and now are gone. BAR needs to find out where these stones are being stored for future use.
- On historic blocks, brick should replace concrete whenever maintenance is done. A survey of historic blocks needs to be carried out. Buildings built prior to 1934 are considered historic based on the National Register Nomination form for the district. Once the survey is complete, the list of historic blocks will be handed over to T&ES.

There is currently an ongoing digital survey of Old Town. The software is provided by the National Park Service. A call for volunteers will be announced in the Fall.

### **212 South Fairfax- William Brown House**

A timber frame house, south of The Green Steam Furniture Factory. The application was approved last year to replace the 1990s L. The historic windows have been sent out for restoration.

### **Combined BARs Proposal – 9/17/18 Public Hearing**

There have been two public hearings concerning the proposal to combine the Parker Gray and the Old and Historic Alexandria District Boards of Architectural Review. The latest meeting took place on September 17th at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Gretchen Bulova, Al Cox, Danny Smith, and Tobin Tracey attended and provided a summary of the discussion to HARC.

Great attendance – 60-80 people.

There were two basic elements to the meeting:

1. A single board of architectural review would be more efficient and financially better for the city.
2. Concern that if the two boards are blended, the combined board would not provide adequate consideration to the Parker Gray District applications.

Not many attendees had ever taken a case to the BAR and therefore lack a personal experience with the design guidelines/processes of both boards. The Old and Historic BAR already has experience with prominent African American sites in the city.

Next steps:

- Combine BAR proposal submitted to Planning Commission Meeting in November
- Proposal to City Council on November 17th
- Back to City Council - 1st legislative session and introduction of the ordinance in December
- 2nd public hearing for the second reading of the ordinance in December

The new board will likely consist of seven members with three-year terms. Ideally, there will be a minimum of two members who are residents of the Parker Gray district and two from the Old and Historic district. The ordinance should be passed by the end of the year. Board members would probably not be appointed until January/February of 2019.

### **Combined Sewer Outfall Project – RiverRENEW.com**

RiverRENEW.com

An excellent, user friendly website which provides program updates and lists public input meetings.

Four public meetings concerning the outfalls have been scheduled within a two-week span:

9/17 – Outfall #1

9/20 – Outfalls #3 & #4

9/24 – Outfall #2

9/25 – All day meeting with the National Park Service

John Dumsick informed HARC that for Outfall #1 construction along the skirts of the river would be preferable rather than under the streets.

Currently, there is a drilling rig at Oronoco Bay Park taking core samples. Another at the circle on Eisenhower Avenue.

## **Statue of George Washington**

An ad hoc group formed to discuss the possibility of obtaining a statue of George Washington to install in Alexandria City. There is currently controversy regarding two issues:

1. How George Washington will be portrayed.
2. The enslaved people he owned.

The Public Art Commission has declined to act on this project. The Arts Commission does not want to participate in the process.

## **Waterfront**

### **Park at the foot of King Street – Input process**

The Naming Committee which consists of two members of the City Council, and the City Manager met on September 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Park at the foot of King Street which was previously known as Fitzgerald Park. This Naming Committee is responsible for naming parks, amenities, and other land areas within the city. Currently, there is no official process in place for obtaining public input (HARC included) regarding the naming of this park. If a process is approved, HARC and other relevant commissions will probably be asked to give a recommendation.

### **Trails update**

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. there will be a beta test of the trail, using the website that was created.

## **Standing Sub-Committee Reports**

### **OHA and Planning Support**

No report.

### **Advocacy and Preservation**

No report.

### **Finance**

Still working on establishing an organization that can contribute financially towards historic preservation in Alexandria.

### **Educational Outreach**

No report.

## **OHA Report**

Gretchen Bulova presented the OHA report:

- The search for the OHA Director has closed. The interview process will begin in October.
- Carver School and the Edmonson Sister's Statue wayfinding signs have been installed.
- Asked for City Carryover funds to design, fabricate, and install seven additional mini kiosks along Duke Street.

- Adding one new mini kiosk on King Street about Alexandria Furniture industry.
- Restoration of the African-American Heritage Park is in progress. Should be completed by the end of September.
- Preparing to install two exhibit cases on the first floor of Freedom House. Also, painting two rooms, creating a larger museum shop, and assisting Northern Virginia Urban League with creating a donor packet.
- Landscape plan being developed for The Lyceum and the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House.
- Revised the online OHA shop – please look! [Shop.alexandriava.gov](http://Shop.alexandriava.gov)
- The 2018 Historic Alexandria ornament will feature the Lee-Fendall House.
- 2nd year, hosting Walktober tours for city employees during lunch breaks.
- Cider Festival will be November 17th at Lloyd House, please volunteer.

### **Commissioner Updates**

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

Linda Lovell was elected president of the Mortar and Pestle Society.

A representative from Eyemats came to the Apothecary Museum to photograph the historic floors for the preservation mats that will be made.

#### **John Dumsick – Carlyle House**

Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace

Saturday, September 29

10:00 – 11:00 am

Mansion House Whiskey Tasting (discount for young professionals)

Saturday, September 29

6:30 - 9:00pm

Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace

Tuesday, October 2

5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Zombie Escape

Friday, October 26

6:30 - 10:00 pm.

Escape the Sanderson Witches

Saturday, October 27

6:30 - 10:00 pm

#### **Shawn Eyer – George Washington Masonic Memorial**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cornerstone laying at the Capitol, which the Alexandria Lodge participated in. Items in the Masonic Memorial were used during the ceremony.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission