

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

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**PRESENT:**

Alan Chodos	Bill Hendrickson	Gail Rothrock
John Dumsick	Laura Lieberman	Danny Smith
Jolande Goldberg	Linda Lovell	Stephen Stuart
Martha Harris	Elizabeth McCall	Kelly Spradley-Kurowski

**EXCUSED:** Tobin Tracey, Maddy McCoy, Severiano Ortiz

**ABSENT:** Keith Moore, Shawn Eyer, Monica St. Dennis, Apasrin Suvanasai

**CITY STAFF:** Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Al Cox, BAR

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Chairman Smith took the opportunity to announce the appointment of Gretchen Bulova as the new Director of the Office of the Historic Alexandria. The Commission offered their congratulations!

**Approval of Minutes for November and December Meeting**

The December minutes were approved. Copies of the November minutes were not provided at the meeting, so approval was deferred to the February meeting. The motion was made by Linda Lovell and seconded by Laura Lieberman.

**Chairs Update**

The new positions on the redefined BAR are now advertised. City Council was sworn in on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and there is a Council retreat on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**HARC Statement and Board of Architectural Review Action (12/19/18) on 219 King**

The result of HARC's advocacy and other organization testimony on proposed changes to the 219 Restaurant may have made an impact on the BAR's decision. The application was deferred and will be reconsidered in February. The architect is going to make changes to the railing, awning, and other key proposed alterations so that the project and ultimate design is more in keeping with the historic look of the neighborhood.

## **HARC Letter and Board of Architectural Review Action (12/19/18) on 619 South Lee**

Owners of the property are working to restore the property appropriately but HARC continues to have concerns about the proposed kitchen addition and new street access. The property owner attended the December 2018 BAR meeting and invited BAR members and interested members of the community to tour the property.

## **VDHR Communication**

Chairman McCall attended a special meeting at VDHR in Richmond, along with representatives from Preservation Virginia and the Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF), to discuss VDHR easements and enforcement. The specific issues of 619 South Lee were not addressed since the property owners were not present. Discussion focused on the Attorney General's statement regarding the non-enforcement of easements, including open space easements, and the VDHR appeals process. It was suggested that the local BAR could be more rigorous in their easement interpretation.

## **HARC Orientation Materials**

Thanks were given to Laura Lieberman and the OHA Sub-Committee for their outstanding work on the orientation materials for HARC. These materials are intended for onboarding new HARC members but are perfect to provide to the new Councilmembers. Comments and edits to the documents are appreciated before the next HARC meeting.

## **Implementation of Changes to Board of Architectural Review Ordinance**

The two BARs have now been formally combined. The deadline to apply for a new Board position closes February 4.

## **Alexandria Renew - Combined Sewer Outfall Project**

Several HARC members applied to be a part of the stakeholder group and are waiting for the announcement of the committee and first meeting.

## **Freedom House Status**

OHA learned today that the NVUL Board Chair, Tracey Walker, recently resigned her position and that the board is re-organizing and re-accessing their structure. Over the weekend, water for the site was turned off for non-payment so tours were cancelled. OHA is working with the CMO and NVUL Board to create the 2019 MOU. OHA will continue to operate the museum in the short term on Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. – regardless of the MOU status. Expanded hours are planned for February, to accommodate the public interest during Black History Month.

## **OHA Report**

Gretchen Bulova reported that she is working on the FY20 budget and supplemental requests. Priorities for the remaining 6 months of the fiscal year continue to focus on building and historic site maintenance, the operation of Freedom House, the preservation and documentation of the excavated ships, exploring outside funding sources for a variety of important museum projects, community engagement about the Equal Justice Initiative, and hiring additional front-line staff.

She noted that the Jefferson Davis Highway street signs have been changed and that two examples have been saved for the OHA museum collection.

The historic pumper, a piece of fire-fighting equipment, at Friendship Firehouse was selected as one of the Virginia Association of Museum Top 10 Endangered Artifacts and this social media voting program will launch at the end of January. All participants are guaranteed \$750 with the opportunity to win up to \$4,000. Prizes will be awarded on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Richmond at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

Spring2Action is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and OHA has once again registered as the Historic Alexandria Museums. OHA staff will determine their projects in the next few weeks.

### **Standing Sub-Committee Reports**

**OHA** – Linda Lovell encouraged HARC members to complete the OHA survey that was distributed via E-news on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Questions range from the preservation of the excavated ships to awareness of events in Historic Alexandria.

**Advocacy** – did not meet this month

**Education** – did not meet this month

**Finance** – no report

### **Commissioner Updates**

Laura Lieberman – Reoccurring tours are taking place each Saturday this winter to promote the enslaved and free labor that supported the Lee Fendall House.

Jolande Goldberg – A different process has been proposed by the City and is under review to select artists for the TFAC. There is interest by the Artist Association in applying for Virginia Landmark Status for the historic Torpedo Factory building which will be turning 100 this year. Gretchen Bulova will follow up with the different city agencies regarding this interest.

Martha Harris – Recommended that HARC take an active role in filling the vacancies on the Commission and examine the current membership and future diversity of HARC. Commission members agreed.

Gail Rothrock – Reported on today’s HAF advocacy committee meeting and the sale of the Campagna Center building. Within 18 to 24 months, the site could be redeveloped. There is concern about the open space behind the building. Proposal also includes the removal of the paint on the front façade. Chairman McCall commented that there is a larger plan to redevelop Washington Street.

Bill Hendrickson – National Trust has an interesting initiative, ‘Forty Under Forty.’ The idea is to look at sites worth saving before they become historic or are destroyed. Voting is open through January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly Spradley-Kurowski – Reported on a presentation given to the OTCA about a 287-unit development going into the old metro bus barn. The St. Mary's School is looking to alter their building and parking to improve traffic flow and the movement of students through their property. This is still in the conceptual phase.

John Dumsick – Visitation has dramatically increased with the government shutdown of the Smithsonian museums. Carlyle House is in the final phase of their American Alliance of Museum's accreditation application. They are looking forward to being re-accredited.

Elizabeth McCall – The Friends of Alexandria Archaeology annual volunteer party will take place at Alexandria Archaeology on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m.

Danny Smith – Reported on the wide-array of upcoming George Washington Celebration events planned in Alexandria this February!

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Bulova, Substitute Clerk for the January 2019 HARC meeting