

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

PRESENT:

Shawn Eyer	Linda Lovell	Monica St. Dennis
Jolande Goldberg	Paul Mazucca	Danny Smith
Martha Harris	Elizabeth McCall	Stephen Stuart
Bill Hendrickson	Maddie McCoy	Kelly Spradley-Kurowski
Richard Klingenmaier	Severiano Ortiz	
Laura Lieberman	Gail Rothrock	

EXCUSED: John Dumsick

ABSENT: Alan Chodos, Keith Moore, Tobin Tracey

GUESTS: Larry Goldberg, McArthur Meyers, Adrienne Fikes

CITY STAFF: Al Cox, BAR
Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA

CALL TO ORDER:

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

New members were introduced and welcomed to HARC:

Paul Mazzuca – Planning District III
Richard Klingenmaier – Alexandria Association

McArthur Meyers introduced Adrienne Fikes.

Approval of Minutes for November and December Meeting

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Jolande Goldberg, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting with amendments.

On a motion by, Stephen Stuart seconded by Linda Lovell, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting with amendments.

Chairs Update

Chairman McCall met with Mayor Wilson in late January and discussed the following:

- maritime museum/waterfront history interpretation plan
- Freedom House Museum
- 619 South Lee Street

Mayor Wilson was supportive of a waterfront interpretive history plan and a maritime museum. Martha Harris requested a formal and more detailed discussion regarding the proposed museum.

Chairman McCall clarified that the museum would be an opportunity to showcase other historic sites. A feasibility study was requested, and the Archaeology Department formed a sub-committee to explore various options to exhibit the ships.

Mayor Wilson would like to coordinate a work session for City Council with the history preservation community.

HARC and Board of Architectural Review, Appeal to Council re: 619 South Lee

Chairman McCall and John Richards from HAF attended a meeting in Richmond in January about easement enforcement issues. City organizations: HAF, Old Town Civic, and Alexandria Historical Restoration & Preservation Commission met and discussed how to pursue the 619 issue with BAR and beyond.

BAR approved the proposal by owners of 619 South Lee Street. Vote was split into two: demolition and modifications. A petition for appeal on the BAR's decision was officially submitted to the City. Twenty-five signatures of Old & Historic District property owners was required. 126 signatures were collected. Not sure when it will be added to the City Council docket. HAF, Old Town Civic Association, HARC and the Alexandria Association will provide testimony at the City Council hearing.

Update on Easement Discussions:

Three parts to the easement discussion:

1. 619 South Lee
2. Relationship between the city and state towards easement enforcement
3. Communication between state and city regarding notifications.

The purpose of reaching out to the VDHR was to discuss issues #2 and #3.

#2) More of a legal issue, not policy issue. The City has declined to enforce some easements that various organizations feel are the City's responsibility. The State has declined to enforce easements evenly. Preservation Virginia and some of Alexandria's easement holding groups are planning to discuss these issues with the Attorney General's Office.

#3) Chairman McCall spoke with Julie Langan, VDHR Director. She does not feel they need to notify the City. Also, the State is not sure who to notify. Chairman McCall will meet with Gretchen to discuss further.

Overall, further discussions are needed with the new City Attorney about easement enforcement. Most likely, will need to go through litigation.

HARC Orientation Materials with Council – Initial Feedback

Retreat for new City Council took place in late January. Goals included getting new council members up-to-speed and to discuss their priorities. The HARC/OHA orientation packets that Laura Lieberman and Linda Lovell created were distributed electronically to the Council members.

Chairman McCall received positive feedback from council members.

Stephen Stuart suggested pairing existing HARC members with new members as an orientation strategy. HARC accepted. Selected pairs: Stephen Stuart & Paul Mazucca, Gail Rothrock & Richard Klingenmaier, and Martha Harris & Deborah Osborne. Bill Hendrickson recommended that new HARC members look through previous annual reports and meeting minutes. Linda Lovell noted Patricia Washington from Visit Alexandria would like to be added to a future agenda to discuss Portside History at Waterfront Park.

New Board of Architectural Review

On February 12, 2019 City Council appointed a new Board of Architectural Review (BAR) to oversee both the Parker-Gray and Old & Historic Alexandria districts.

- Robert “Bud” Adams, citizen-at-large, 1-year term
- Bill Conkey, representative of the Parker-Gray District, 3-year term
- Purvi Irwin, architect, 3-year term
- Lynn Neihardt, citizen-at-large, 1-year term
- Christine Roberts, representative of the Old & Historic District, 3-year term
- James Spencer, architect, 2-year term
- John Sprinkle, citizen-at-large, 2-year term

Al Cox reported on new projects:

- Campagna Center – Addition in the rear of the building; doubles the size.
- Robinson Landing – 18th century warehouse will be restored and possibly be converted to a market. Renovations would be made while preserving the historic envelope. A restaurant owner/developer has proposed to make major modifications and convert it to a large restaurant. Al Cox has been pushing back; does not meet the community’s expectations. No formal application has been submitted.
- Ross Retail Store – New residential development has been proposed. Building would be raised 50-77 feet.
- 1300 block of King Street – block currently contains: boarding house, used car lots, restaurants, and businesses. Development plan complies with zoning ordinance. Pines of Florence and Aftertime Comics are historic buildings. Proposal is to make the block an open, two-story retail space with three stories of condos on top. Two existing buildings will remain and be surrounded by the development.

Education and Outreach

Chairman McCall announced OHA is trying to improve community involvement/participation. HARC should think of ways OHA can showcase various historic organizations to the community. Preservation Month is a good opportunity. Martha Harris mentioned a symposium for Ramsey Homes would also be a good opportunity to engage community members.

Freedom House Status

Gretchen Bulova will report on the status on the MOU with the Northern Virginia Urban League at the March HARC meeting.

OHA Report

Gretchen Bulova needed to attend the City Council Meeting about the FY2020 budget and was unable to attend the HARC meeting so no official report given. Linda Lovell contributed to the OHA Report (see “Commissioner Updates”).

Standing Sub-Committee Reports

No reports.

Commissioner Updates

Linda Lovell

- Madeira Tasting - Saturday, February 23 - The Lyceum
- Has been giving talks about OHA to the Senior Academy.
- Speaker Bureau – outreach to the community. A City staff member talked about various commissions during the last meeting.
- A specialist (from England) on the Archaeology of Apothecaries will be visiting the Apothecary Museum. He will also give a lecture on May 22. More details to come.
- Eyemats at the Apothecary Museum – new samples arrived. Look great!

Laura Lieberman

Upcoming Events at the Lee-Fendall House:

- *Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Servants at the Lee-Fendall House* – Saturday, February 23 @ 2pm
- 20th Annual Easter Egg Hunt – April 19-21

Martha Harris

- Gadsby’s Tavern Museum – *Specialty Tour: A Complicated Hospitality*. Excellent tour!

Richard Klingenmaier

- Alexandria Association – Meeting on Monday, Feb. 18. Presentation given by Adam Erby, “Keep it the Home of Washington! The Ongoing Restoration of George Washington’s Mount Vernon.” The Alexandria Association hosts six presentations per year. Only \$35 to join.

Severiano Ortiz

- Alexandria Historical Society Lecture: *Thinking Big: Lessons from the Washington Metro* – March 27 @ 7:30pm

Maddie McCoy on behalf of John Dumsick

- Stair/railing repair project to begin early March.
- Working with Lee-Fendall House to offer “Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria” walking tours, Saturdays in May.
- Open House – Home with Herberts. March 2, 12-4 p.m.

Monica St. Dennis

- National History Day. Volunteer judge for regional, state and national contests. Invited HARC members to also volunteer as judges.

Shawn Eyer

Upcoming events at the George Washington Masonic Memorial:

- March 9 – 1. GW Symposium at 1pm. Three scholars: Jack Warren and Emily Parsons from The Society of the Cincinnati and Tony Williams from the Bill of Rights Institute. 2. Annual Gala. 3. Unveiling of a new exhibit at 12:30 p.m. The museum will be closed the entire day.

Apasrin Suvasasai

- New exhibit at the Black History Museum – Photographs along the Underground Railroad.

Danny Smith

- Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society "Best Bib and Tucker Ball" - Saturday, March 16.
- George Washington Birthday Celebration – very successful!
- Walking with Washington Tour – 100 people!

Elizabeth McCall

- Unveiling of partial 3D model of the hull of excavated ship at Alexandria Archaeology.
- WWI documentary by Peter Jackson using archives from Imperial War Museums – They Shall Not Grow Old. Playing at local theaters.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvasasai, OHA Staff to the Commission