

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 16, 2019

PRESENT:

Shawn Eyer	Linda Lovell	Gail Rothrock
Jolande Goldberg	Paul Mazzuca	Monica St. Dennis
Martha Harris	Elizabeth McCall	Danny Smith
Richard Klingenmaier	Maddy McCoy	Steven Stuart
Laura Lieberman	Severiano Ortiz	

EXCUSED:

John Dumsick
Bill Hendrickson
Deborah Osborne

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Larry Goldberg

CITY STAFF:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Approval of Minutes for March 19, 2019 Meeting

On a motion by, Steven Stuart seconded by Severiano Ortiz, HARC voted to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 meeting with edits.

Chairs Update

- Resignation of Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, OTCA was announced.
- Jolande Goldberg distributed copies of the “Torpedo Factory Artists Jurying Process” letter. The letter provided a brief overview of the Torpedo Factory artist’s jurying process up until 2019. The TFAA expresses disagreement with the City’s Office of the Arts new jurying process. Co-chairs, Danny Smith and Elizabeth McCall will review the letter and determine if the issue should be added to a HARC meeting agenda.
- Changes made to the Alexandria-Caen Sister City D-Day Commemoration.

Board of Architectural Review Update - Al Cox

- Rendering of (latest) proposed construction of 10 Duke Street was distributed. The building will be sold to a restaurant developer. Current proposal includes, documenting and dissembling the building and putting in a proper foundation. BAR staff has proposed reconstructing the building with same design and proportion, using original historic materials.

- Al Cox presented a map showing historic architecture in both the Parker-Gray and the Old & Historic District. T&ES has agreed to stop replacing sidewalks on predominantly historic blocks with concrete and use brick when appropriate. The map will be used as a guideline for public infrastructure when T&ES does their annual updates/improvements.

Upcoming BAR Hearings/Meetings:

March 17 - BAR Hearing

May 1 - Public Meeting – No hearing. Will have Freedom of Information Act and other procedural ordinance training for the board.

May 14 - 619 South Lee St. Appeal moved to a legislative meeting.

May 15 - River Renew Outfall Project

- April 28 - 18th Annual AIA Old Town Walking Tour – featuring historic churches.
- 5G networks are coming to Alexandria. Design guidelines could include, poles up to 35 feet high - 3 per block. Main component needs to be underground or close to ground level.

Easement Discussion and Update on 619 South Lee Street

Co-chair Smith opened the discussion. May 14th there will be a City Council meeting. A flyer was distributed providing various ways to be involved in the opposition to the planned demolition and massive new construction on the certified historic landmark site. Speakers have been selected and a plan for presentations has been determined.

City Council can uphold, deny, or modify the decision of the BAR. This case will set a precedent for other historic easements. If the property loses its historic integrity, it cannot be designated a National Historic Landmark. HARC members are encouraged to attend the public meeting in solidarity.

Christ Church Update – Letter to the Mayor and City Council

The Mayor acknowledged receipt of the letter and City Council will study the issue. Still working on the letter to Christ Church. Linda Lovell reminded HARC that TWIG is also interested in this issue. Al Cox updated that the plan of building up to 60-65 feet was abandoned. A new plan should be submitted in June.

Freedom House Museum Update – Gretchen Bulova

MOU has not been signed. Permission was given for OHA to use the 3rd floor for the Sherry Sanabria – Before the Spirits are Swept Away: African American Historic Site Paintings exhibit and a reflection area. The back room on the 1st floor will be used for visitors with accessibility needs. The museum’s main exhibit is located in the basement - only accessible by a steep staircase.

National Register of Historic Places Issue

Co-chair McCall opened the discussion. The Department of Interior has proposed a new rule that the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), and other preservation groups strongly oppose. McCall distributed letters from VDHR, NCSHPO, and NATHPO explaining their opposition. The following are some of their major reasons:

1. "...the person or entity that owns the majority of land within a historic district can veto a nomination."
2. "For nominations of federally-owned properties, the proposed changes forbid the Keeper of the National Register from reviewing a nomination unless it has been forwarded to the Keeper by the Federal Preservation Officer of the agency that manages the property."
3. The proposed rule will affect federally-recognized tribes. "...the requirement that the U.S. government engage in consultation with sovereign tribes on a government-to-government basis is greatly endangered..."
4. "Cumulatively, the proposed rule changes have the potential to substantially reduce the number of viable nominations for historic districts and for federally-owned properties that get listed in the National Register."

Deadline for response is April 30th. Co-chair McCall volunteered to write a letter on behalf of HARC.

HARC Committee Reports

Martha Harris raised two issues:

1. Alexandria's approach to open space/cultural landscape. There has been no mention of history/historic preservation. Suggested a HARC member follow this topic and get involved.
2. EJI – concerned about how members of the community will be involved. Would like to see more focus on history/research.

Gretchen Bulova informed HARC that the initiative is currently in the stage of community engagement and dialogue. Working on building a community consensus. First community meetings: June 4th or 11th. The project will be community driven. There is currently a small steering committee comprised of NAACP, Human Rights, Member of Faith Community, Public Schools, and HARC. A community committee structure will follow. Does not have to be government run. EJI will determine whether each city is ready to receive their pillars; not entirely up to the city. Alexandria is ahead of most cities; only city to apply in Virginia.

OHA Report

Museums

1. Friendship Firehouse Museum's historic Hose Reel was the recipient of the Historic Alexandria Museums fundraising for Spring2Action, raising more than \$8,000 toward conservation funding. Bids are being solicited for the conservation. \$62,000 has been raised to date.
2. May is Historic Preservation month!
Be sure to join OHA for the annual Murray-Dick-Fawcett House Open House on Thursday, May 2nd. Other programs include special lectures by Tom Mayes with the National Trust and Joshua Rothman with the University of Alabama. All events are listed on OHA's calendar of events.
3. Visiting Scholar: May 22
Grab a sandwich on May 22 and head over to the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum from Noon until 1pm as you learn from Christopher Booth, visiting scholar from the University of Nottingham, UK. Combining evidence from excavations and museums across Britain, Ireland, and the British Colonial Atlantic together with contemporary writings, Christopher is examining several topics around the work and place of early modern apothecaries. His talk will focus on one of them: how apothecaries used material

culture to create trust in their patients through highly constructed retail spaces as well as use of the display of specimens, decorated drug jars, and instruments of pharmacy.

4. Final public meeting for the Fort Ward Interpretive Committee will be on April 23rd at 7 p.m. at Lloyd House. The consulting team from Design Minds will share the final designs for the museum exhibit, new markers, the commemoration space, and more. The design packet is on OHA's website. The goal of this project was to expand the interpretation in Fort Ward Park to include the African American community that made up "The Fort" and nearby "Seminary" communities.

OHA Projects

1. Freedom House – OHA will be using the 3rd floor of the building for temporary exhibitions and an expanded reflection area. Staff will be creating a more accessible alternative to the basement exhibit on the first floor.
2. OHA's Equal Justice Initiative implementation plan was endorsed by City Council at the March 12th meeting. OHA will hold a community planning meeting on either June 4 or 11 to establish committees to ultimately claim Alexandria's lynching pillar.
3. The City held a volunteer appreciation event for all city volunteers on Thursday, April 11th. For those who were unable to attend, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERISM! We appreciate your time and expertise!
4. City Council will adopt the FY20 budget in May, before the next HARC meeting. We are hopeful to receive an additional FTE – division chief of Administration – as well as funding for the digital documentation of the excavated ships, funding for a Master Plan for the MDF Fawcett House, funds to address maintenance at Fort Ward, and more.

Commissioner Updates (as needed)

Linda Lovell – Mortar & Pestle Society

- Brought samples of Apothecary's new eyemats - installment is scheduled for early June.
- Lecture about archaeology in apothecaries, May 22nd.
- Slavery to Freedom Bus Tour – collaboration between Archaeology & Mount Vernon, April 27

Laura Lieberman – Carlyle House

- Egg Hunt has sold out.
- Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria. Saturday May 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Jolande Goldberg – Torpedo Factory

- The Late Shift – Alexandria Creates. May 10, 7 – 10 p.m.

Gail Rothrock – HAF

- Reminder to attend the 619 BAR Hearing on May 14.

Severiano Ortiz – Alexandria Historical Society

- "We Cannot Be Tame Spectators": Three Centuries of Virginia Women's History. Lecture given by Cindy Kierner, professor of history at George Mason University. May 22 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Maddy McCoy for John Dumsick – Carlyle House

- Mother's Day Tea – Sold Out
- Trivia Nights – Bi-weekly, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Garden Day Craft Sale – April 27

- Wine and Chocolate Tasting – May 5
- Yoga every Tuesday and Saturday morning.

Monica St. Dennis – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Meeting location changed from City Hall to Archives & Records Center.

Danny Smith – Business Rep./Chair

- Possibly weigh in on electric scooters in historic areas of Alexandria.
- Stable Keeper for Gadsby’s Tavern will be giving the Walking with Washington Tour. April 20.

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Apasrin Suvanasai, OHA Staff to the Commission