

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

PRESENT: (16 for quorum)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

David Kovalik

Laura Lieberman

Corrine Marasco

Nigel Mease

Mia Mulrennan

John Patrick

Tim Rose

Gail Rothrock

Lisa Schumaier

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Roberta Stevens

Ivy Whitlatch

VIRTUAL:

None

EXCUSED:

Mark Farkas

Barbara Marvin

ABSENT:

Bailee Barfield

Tom Schultz

Rebecca Super

PUBLIC:

Natalie St. John

Bao Truong

CITY STAFF:

Eleanor Breen, OHA Staff

Jenine Kotob, General Services Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENTATION:

Jenine Kotob of Alexandria's Department of General Services gave a presentation on the Gadsby's Tavern upcoming preservation work as informed by the 10-year master plan. Previous studies revealed issues with the roof, mortar failure, rotted woodwork, and deteriorated steps that will be addressed by gentle cleaning, replacing roofing materials, repairing mortar, replacing loose and damaged bricks, and any additional repairs as necessary. The work is set to begin in June and be completed in October.

Approval of Minutes for February 18, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The February 18, 2025, minutes were approved with the edits.

Off Agenda

Tim Rose raised the issue that a pride flag should not be hung in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's gift shop window as it is not historic. HARC asked for additional information from OHA.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Not Present.

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- Carol is still investigating the location of the original pulpit commissioned by the Alexandria Association that had been removed from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- The Athenaeum's gallery wall is being replastered and a new gallery hanging system is being installed.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mark Farkas – Planning District 3

- Excused Absence

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- The Archives & Records Center is working on records management training, which will be done before everyone moves out of City Hall for the renovation.

- A sub-basement was discovered, previously unknown, that has water. The Archives & Records Center is next to the City of Alexandria's Burn Building, which is being renovated and is the source of some water intrusion.
- Jackie Cohan is retiring in June.
- The Archives & Records Center has been working on public access to records via Apex that will be made available to owners for their property.
- Vacancies exist on the Public Records Advisory Commission.

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- They have two Civil War events planned in April. One is a walking tour and the other is a tour of Civil War Hospitals, including the Grosvenor Branch Hospital at the Lee-Fendall House and the Grosvenor Hospital, which was at 414 North Washington Street. The Grosvenor Hospital is commemorating its 160th anniversary.
- Their Easter Egg Hunt will be held again this year.

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- Excused Absence

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Nigel Mease – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (AHRPC)

- The commission has found a way to access funds that the Commonwealth is holding. Funds will be transferred to the City.
- The commission has a digitized list of easements so that they can be managed and inspected. They are looking for a way that the document can be shared within the commission.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Videos have been posted about the history of Rosemont and can be found by searching Rosemont Historic District.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Plans for the annual garden party are underway. A book on historic houses and interiors is in progress.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Not Present.

Lisa Schumaier

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Many students are visiting Alexandria for tours this season.
- In the Eisenhower Avenue area, a new 31-story building is being proposed. It will be larger than the Mark Center and located opposite the Wegmans store. There was discussion about why it is so tall and if that conflicts with Alexandria's historic character.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The April program will be by Thomas Mitchie, "New England's French Connection: Yankee Entrepreneurs in Post-Revolutionary Paris."

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Not Present.

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- The AAC received a proclamation from the City for its 50th anniversary on February 25th during the City Council meeting.
- The AAC was presented with a joint resolution from the Virginia Assembly by Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker on January 31st.
- Senator Warner flew a flag over the Capitol in honor of AAC's 50th anniversary and gave it to the AAC.
- An article will appear in the *Alexandria Times* about the anniversary.
- The AAC wrote a letter to and received a response from the Department of Project Implementation regarding the waterfront's history interpretation.
- The City Manager approved the proposal to pursue a nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The AAC continues to express interest in displaying the ship timbers from the Hotel Indigo site.

New Business:

Design of City Hall

- John Patrick presented his experience at one of the City Hall renovation meetings. He raised the issue of the proposal to construct an additional story behind the Latrobe steeple. John Patrick and Gail Rothrock agreed to monitor the project and report back at the next meeting. A determination will be made if an ad hoc committee is necessary.

Old Business:

Outreach to new Council Members

- Steve Stuart and Rebecca Rose helped draft a letter to the new City Council members and one for the returning City Council members. There was discussion about making some edits that permit a single letter to be sent. Chris asked for any edits before the letter (or letters) get sent.

Interpretation of the “Boat Building” Theme at Waterfront Park

- Matt Landes reassured the AAC that the change will be made from boat to ship and that the theme of ship building will be highlighted in the appropriate location along the waterfront.

Jones Point Lighthouse Update:

- A letter to the City Council, drafted by Carol Black and John Patrick, with input from Gretchen Bulova, on HARC’s support for the National Park Service’s proposal to transfer funds for preservation of the historic Jones Point Lighthouse, was reviewed. A motion was made by John Patrick and seconded by Roberta Stevens to approve the letter and to send it to the City Council.

Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project

- No Update

Section 106 for the Heritage Project:

- No Update

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Mark Farkas, HARC Representative

- No Report

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

- 1201 East Abingdon: At the March 5, 2025, BAR hearing, the Board considered a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the conversion of the existing office building into a multi-unit residential building with an addition. The Development Special Use Permit for the project was recently approved after the Board heard this proposal as a Concept Review. Board members provided feedback on the proposed design and the applicant requested a deferral in order to address these comments. They will be returning to the Board in the coming months.
- 417 King Street: At the March 5, 2025, BAR hearing the Board approved an application for an afterhours pickup window at the Taco Bell located on King Street. Staff recommended that the color for the metal portion of the window match the storefront framing instead of the proposed purple color. The Board upheld this as a condition of approval.

- 400 King Street: On March 18, 2025, the Board will be hearing a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the existing storefront at the ground floor of the building at 400 King Street. The applicant is requesting a brightly colored storefront system with large panes of glazing in place of the multi-lite storefront currently installed. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the application with the condition that the applicant work with staff on a multi-lite design with a subdued color scheme.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Eleanor Breen

- OHA is participating in the American Alliance of Museum's Museum Social Impact Survey and encourages HARC to take the survey.
- Alexandria Archaeology is offering their annual summer camp with a few spots still open.
- Alexandria Archaeology recently launched an online interactive map initiative called the Alexandria Historical Sign Finder: History Around the City.
- Spring2Action: This year's event will take place on April 9th and support the interior accessibility of Freedom House.
- The canal lock stones have been relocated to Montgomery Park for future use in a park or other city project.

Public Comment

- None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The next meeting is planned for April 15, 2025, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Breen, OHA

Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary