

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

PRESENT: (15 for quorum)

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

David Kovalik

Corrine Marasco

Barbara Marvin

Nigel Mease

John Patrick

Gail Rothrock

Mark Farkas

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Roberta Stevens

Ivy Whitlatch

Mia Mulrennan

Lisa Schumaier

VIRTUAL:

Carol Black

EXCUSED:

Rebecca Super

Laura Lieberman

Tim Rose

ABSENT:

Bailee Barfield

Tom Schultz

PUBLIC:

Shawn Eyer

CITY STAFF:

Liz Williams, OHA Staff

Bill Conkey, BAR Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes March 18, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Carol Black. The March 18, 2025 minutes were approved with edits.

Commissioner Updates:

Bailee Barfield – Volunteers at a Historic Property or Attraction

- Not Present.

Carol Black – Historic Houses of Worship

- No Report

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- No Report

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mark Farkas – Planning District 3

- No Report
- This will be Mark's last meeting with HARC. He is resigning for health reasons.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- No Report

Laura Lieberman – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Excused Absence

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Barbara Marvin – Planning District 1

- No Report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

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

- The Commission has an interest in the waterfront projects and will be keeping an eye on the process as it moves forward.
- They have found more up-to-date software for sharing files and information as they move to the digital format.

Shawn Eyer – George Washington National Masonic Memorial

- Masonic Memorial
 - An Easter Service will be held at the Masonic Memorial's front steps with free tours afterward. He encouraged interested individuals to arrive early and to park in the surrounding area since the parade will come up the driveway and into the parking lot.
- Lee Fendall House Museum & Garden
 - The Easter Egg Hunt was sold out. Lots of activities and programs are planned for April and in the coming months including the Wine & Art Night Spring Fundraiser on May 3rd.
 - They had a great event marking the 160th anniversary of Grosvenor Branch Hospital's closure, which included reading the names of Civil War soldiers who died there.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- No Report

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – The Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- The annual preservation grant applications are due May 1.
- The annual garden party will be held on June 15th.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Not Present

Lisa Schumaier

- No Report

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- He called the Department of Planning and Zoning about the proposed 31-story building on Eisenhower Avenue. The project is still under review.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The April 21st program will feature Thomas Mitchie on “New England's French Connection: Yankee Entrepreneurs in Post-Revolutionary Paris.”

- The May 19th program will feature Nick Stagliano on “Hanns Weinberg and the Antique Porcelain Company.”

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Excused Absence

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- Last week, the front-page story in the *Alexandria Times* was the AAC’s 50th anniversary.
- Conversations are continuing about the ship from the Hotel Indigo site returning to Alexandria and where it will be exhibited.

New Business:

Ivy posed the question: Should we have a standing ad hoc committee about the waterfront development plans?

- There was a discussion about HARC’s role and the timing of a response to the design that develops.
- A motion was made by Steve Stuart to have an ad hoc committee formed to keep abreast of waterfront development plans. It was seconded by Lisa Schumaier. The motion was approved.
- Gail Rothrock said she was willing to serve as chair with assistance from Ivy Whitlatch, Mia Mulrennan, Lisa Schumaier, and Steve Stuart.

Ivy posed the question: Does HARC want to explore how best to preserve and support the city’s historic resources given the possible losses of grants and other funding sources?

- This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chair posted the question: Should we skip any meetings during the summer?

- The summer HARC meeting schedule will be discussed at the May meeting.

Old Business:

Outreach to all Council Members:

- Using input from the last meeting, the letter was edited and sent to all current council members.

Jones Point Lighthouse Update:

- The letter to the City Council on HARC’s support for the National Park Service’s proposal to transfer funds for preservation of the historic Jones Point Lighthouse was finalized. The letter will be provided to the City Council as part of the docket process.

Section 106 for the Heritage Project:

- Work will start in the second quarter.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Mark Farkas

- The Remembrance Event for Joseph McCoy will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church at 606 S. Washington Street. The featured speaker is author Robert P. Jones.
- Due to Mark's resignation, a new HARC member will need to fill this seat.

City Hall and Market Square Redesign – John Patrick, Gail Rothrock

- A letter was sent from the Historic Alexandria Foundation to the BAR with their opinion on the redesign of City Hall. HAF is opposed to the fifth floor addition which will interfere with the view of the historic City Hall building from the surrounding area.
- John will attend the April 16th BAR concept review on behalf of HARC.

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

1201 East Abingdon

- 1201 East Abingdon is the conversion of an existing office building to a multi-unit residential that includes an addition converting the “L” shaped building into a “U” shaped building. The Board first considered the Certificate of Appropriateness for this project at the March 5, 2025, hearing. The case was deferred at this hearing to allow the applicant to address Board comments regarding the material selection and the detailing of the design. It will return to the BAR for a Certificate of Appropriateness at the April 16, 2025, hearing.

City Hall and Market Square

- The renovation of the City Hall building and the adjacent Market Square will go to the BAR for a Concept Review work session at the April 16, 2025, BAR hearing. The scope of the project includes the restoration of the historic portion of the building, modifications to the 1961 addition, and a complete renovation of Market Square. City Hall will be re-imagined to expose the original building's exterior walls and upgrade the building's functionality. At this stage of the project, everything is still very high level, big picture discussions.

Point Lumley Park

- The renovation of the existing Point Lumley Park site will go to the BAR for a Concept Review work session at the May 7, 2025, BAR hearing. The scope of the project includes the reconfiguration of the site, rebuilding the bulkhead, and a shade structure. There will be historic interpretation as part of the final concept.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Liz Williams

- OHA has almost reached its 200-participant goal for the American Alliance of Museum's Museum Social Impact Survey. Some additional younger and diverse volunteers are still being sought to participate in the survey.
- During Spring2ACTion on April 9th, over \$20 thousand was raised for the interior rehabilitation of the Freedom House Museum.
- The \$99,000 IMLS grant that supported digitization of collections of the Black History Museum was terminated on April 8, 2025. OHA is working to draw down money used

before the termination date or to appeal it. The \$500,000 Saving America's Treasures grant for the Freedom House exterior renovations is still active at this moment.

Public Comment

- None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next meeting is planned for May 20, 2025, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Williams, OHA
Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary