

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION

Lloyd House

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

PRESENT: (12 for quorum)

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Corrine Marasco

Barbara Marvin

Nigel Mease

John Patrick

Michael Pope

Tim Rose

Gail Rothrock

Steve Stuart

Russell Simonaro

Ivy Whitlatch

Lisa Schumaier

VIRTUAL:

EXCUSED:

David Kovalik

Laura Lieberman

Mia Mulrennan

Roberta Stevens

Rebecca Super

ABSENT:

Bailee Barfield

Tom Schultz

PUBLIC:

CITY STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, 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 April 15, 2025:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna DeBlasio and seconded by Steve Stuart. The April 15, 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

- Reported on the fundraiser for the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, which recognized life tenant Joe Reeder's 98th birthday. The event was well attended.

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Excused Absence

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

- Excused Absence

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

- Commission is working on letter to City regarding the pump house plan for Waterfront Park.

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Attended the May 8th walk thru of the City Hall restoration and shared that the initial rooftop structure has been scaled back. There was discussion about the steeple and market square entrance. John plans to keep monitoring the project.
- Carol Black added that the City Staff Report to Council included feedback on the fountain design.
- The City Hall project goes back to the BAR on June 18th.

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society

- The annual History Awards presentation will be held May 28th. The T. Michael Miller awards this year will be given to Carol Black, Dr. Krystyn Moon, and the Alexandria Archaeology Commission. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Darnella McGuire-Nelson, “You are History.”
- Lecture June 25, “Theater in Colonial Virginia,” by Dr. Deborah Payne and Dr. Drew Lichtenberg.

Tim Rose – Community Representative

- No Report

Gail Rothrock – The Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- The annual HAF garden party will be held on June 15, tickets are \$100 and available online at historicalalexandriafoundation.org
- Items being watched by HAF include 1201 N. Abington, 802/808 N. Washington (was going to be a hotel and now condos), and the Waterfront Pump Station.

Tom Schultz – Alexandria Civic Association

- Not Present

Lisa Schumaier

- The City put out a Request for Information (RFI) for new entities to run the Torpedo Factory.
- Brett Johnson, Director of the TFAC, has resigned to take a new position as the Executive Director at [The Delaware Contemporary](http://TheDelawareContemporary.com) in Wilmington DE.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- Spoke to Councilman John Chapman about naming something at the new Alexandria hospital after Dr. Albert Johnson.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- Excused Absence

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Excused Absence

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- AAC has three new members on-boarding.
- Excited to receive the T. Michael Miller Award on May 28th by the Alexandria Historical Society.
- Ship from the Hotel Indigo site is now returning to Alexandria in 2027, later than planned.
- AAC applied to the City's Commission of the Year program.
- For the June AAC meeting, Commissioners will tour Ivy Hill Cemetery to learn about their experience in writing the their National Register Nomination.

New Business:

- ACRP Representative – Nigel Mease is interested and will work with Gretchen to learn more.
- Summer meeting schedule – A motion was made to take the July and August Commission meetings off by Carol Black and seconded by Gail Rothrock. The motion failed. The Commission agreed to discuss this matter at the June meeting.

Old Business:

- Jones Point Lighthouse, docket item - Carol Black reported that the docket item passed as part of the consent calendar.
- Section 106 for the Heritage Project – No updates to report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Gretchen Bulova

- The Remembrance Event for Joseph McCoy was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church and featured author Robert P. Jones.
- The August 8th Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas is being planned and will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church will special guest speaker Steven Hahn (historian and Pulitzer Prize winner).
- Scholarships in the name of McCoy and Thomas were awarded at this year's Scholarship Fund of Alexandria program on May 22 at Alexandria City High School.

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

- Reported in Commissioner Updates

Ad Hoc Committee:

Waterfront Pump Station

- Gail Rothrock showed the current concept for the Waterfront pump station to Commission members, using materials on the agenda for the June 5 BAR meeting.

- A motion was made to send a letter to the Board of Architectural Review expressing desire to reduce the visual impact of the pump station design by John Patrick and seconded by Carol Black. Motion passed.

Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey

Point Lumley Park

- At the May 7, BAR hearing the Board heard a concept Review for the renovation of Point Lumley Park. This was the second hearing to discuss this topic but this time it was the focus of the presentation instead of being discussed along with the renovation of the Waterfront Park. The renovation includes the removal of the City owned parking lot on the site and the integration of this area into the overall park. The majority of the park will be a sculpted lawn area with areas for seating and children's activities. The promenade will also be rebuilt to help prevent flooding and a shade structure will be added to the projecting wharf.

Heritage

- The contractor for the Heritage construction project was recently given a notice to proceed and is expecting to start mobilizing on the site in the coming weeks. As a reminder, this will be for the block that is directly adjacent to South Patrick Street where the existing building have already been removed. Construction on the other blocks has been approved but there is no timetable for the beginning of their construction.

Samuel Madden

- The developer for the Samuel Madden project has closed on the funding for the project and is expected to begin the demolition of some of the existing buildings soon, with construction on the new building to commence shortly thereafter. This project is located at the north end of Patrick and Henry Streets and is being developed as a mixed-income property accommodating various levels of affordability. The first phase of construction will be on the northern of the two buildings.

Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Report: Gretchen Bulova

- IMLS funding to the Black History Museum's collection project was terminated on April 8. The project has been scheduled to end on June 30. Good news – OHA did receive the promised funds from IMLS through the termination date.
- Front façade of Freedom House will be completed in the next week and the scaffolding will move to the north section. The renovated façade will reveal the new paint colors as well as the building's return to its pre-1961 appearance. Stay tuned!
- A new passport to Alexandria's museums has been created in partnership with GoAlex. This passport is to encourage public transportation to OHA's museums. Visit all 8 museums and receive a prize! Please share these with your neighbors.

Public Comment

- None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The next meeting is planned for June 17, 2025, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bulova, OHA
Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary