

**HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Lloyd House**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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**PRESENT: (10 for quorum)**

Carol Black

Christopher Brownlowe

Donna DeBlasio

Nigel Mease

Ivy Whitlatch

Mia Mulrennan

Steve Stuart

Roberta Stevens

Corrine Marasco

Tyler Hale

Margaret Whitesides

Christina Bembenek

Lisa Schumaier

Ed Jayne

**VIRTUAL:**

**EXCUSED:**

John Patrick

Michael Pope

Russell Simonaro

Jenny Waters

**ABSENT:**

David Kovalik

Rebecca Super

**PUBLIC:**

**CITY STAFF:**

Liz Williams, OHA Staff

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher Brownlowe at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

### **Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2026:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Stuart and seconded by Donna DeBlasio. The January 20, 2026 minutes were approved as edited.

### **Commissioner Updates:**

Tyler Hale – Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

- OTCA has been focused on police, public safety, and emergency preparation.

Jenny Waters – Lee-Fendall House Museum

- Excused Absence

Ed Jayne – Community Member

- He is excited to attend his first meeting. He shared that he is a volunteer at the Lee-Fendall House Museum and suggested that everyone visit the new exhibit on The Women of Lee-Fendall.

Roberta Stevens – Alexandria Association

- The upcoming lecture, March 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Lyceum will feature Jeffrey Ricketts on the Brick Meeting House, Maryland. She highlighted the lecture's portion on the families living there since the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some in the same home for centuries.

Steven Stuart – Planning District 3

- No Report

Ivy Whitlatch – Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)

- AAC has been advocating for a permanent home for the ship found at the site of the Hotel Indigo for a long time. AAC has worked to include language in the Torpedo Factory's RFP for a new operator.
- The first draft of the Preliminary Information Forms (PIF) for the Wilkes Street Cemetery has been received. It was exactly what was needed to move forward with getting the PIF to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for their June meeting.
- She plans to reach out to Library special collections at the library who also have storage, staffing, and technology challenges.

Donna DeBlasio – Planning District 1

- No Report

Carol Black – Planning District 2

- She did not attend the Del Ray Civic meeting but did attend the Old Town Civic Association's meeting.
- She had an amazing tour of the Archives and Records Center and recommends other HARC members sign up for a tour.

Russell Simonaro – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Mia Mulrennan – Tourism and Business Community

- No Report

Rebecca Super – Carlyle House

- Absent

Corinne Marasco – Houses of Worship

- No Report

Robert Ray – Historic Alexandria Foundation (HAF)

- Absent

Margaret Whitesides – Houses of Worship

- No Report

John Patrick – Planning District 2

- Excused Absence

Christina Bembenek

- No Report

Michael Pope – Alexandria Historical Society (AHS)

- Excused Absence

David Kovalik – Public Records Advisory Commission

- Absent

Lisa Schumaier – Torpedo Factory

- The RFP for a new operator of the Torpedo Factory is the main focus at this time. She noted that rental fees of artist studios are used to support the building's costs. There was some discussion of the effect of the space currently allocated for artists being used for display of the ship remains that have been preserved and remain at Texas A&M University.

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

- The Commission continues to look at the Commonwealth Easement Guides and what can be adopted for Alexandria.

Chris Brownlowe – Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA)

- No Report.

**New Business:**

- Ivy asked if HARC would support AAC’s position of finding an appropriate place for the ship, which would potentially include Torpedo Factory.
  - Chris suggest language be drafted for a motion to be presented at March meeting.
- Ivy suggested HARC be involved in providing budget comments and recommendations during next year’s budget formulation to support funding for additional storage.
  - This will be put on the agenda in the late summer/early fall of 2026.

**Old Business:**

- Waterfront Pump Station
  - Cost estimates are being made on two different options – a single site at 1 Prince or a split station. These estimates will be available by February or March 2026.
- Jones Point Lighthouse
  - Carol Black is investigating the scope of work for the fall.
- New Member Onboarding
  - Steve will look for the old file and will work with HARC’s chair, Christopher Brownlowe.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) – Nigel Mease

- Minutes from their retreat include:
  - Preparing the remembrance events on April 23 and August 8.
  - Budgets for work will be tight this fiscal year.
  - Research progress with the Committee of Inquiry into post-Civil War Alexandria 1865-1902.
- Their next meeting is in March.

**Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Update: Bill Conkey**

- Absent – Bill shared his report via email
- 910 King Street
 

The City Council heard the appeal of the BAR approval for modifications to the property at 910 King Street on January 24, 2026. The Council upheld some aspects of the Board’s decision and reversed or modified other parts. Notably, the Council allowed the painting of the masonry on the east, south, and west sides of the building and allowed the

applicant to stain the front elevation. The applicant is to work with staff on the design of the metalwork and selection of a light fixture to be installed next to the entry.

- **Hearing Schedule**

The BAR canceled the first hearing in February and the first hearing in March because of a lack of applications. The February 18, 2026 BAR hearing took place with two applications for demolition at the rear of properties associated with the construction of additions that will not be visible from the public right of way. The BAR reviews any demolition over 25 square feet regardless of visibility while additions are only reviewed if they are visible from the public right of way.

- **BAR Vacancy**

There is currently a vacancy on the BAR because of the resignation of Frances Pratt. This is for a citizen-at-large position and will be filled by Council at their March 10, 2026 hearing.

### **Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) Update: Liz Williams**

- OHA is officially in full swing for Alexandria's Commemoration of the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. A launch event occurred on February 9 at The Lyceum. Activities will include new programs throughout the year, new exhibitions, and their largest event - Sails on the Potomac from June 12-14, 2026.
- OHA has special programming and social media content for Black History Month. The theme this year is "A Century of Black History Commemorations."
- Other priorities include the Freedom House Museum's interior renovation and its new exhibitions as well as the Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvement Project which is officially underway but was set back a bit by the recent "snowcrete" weather incident.

### **Public Comment**

None

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next meeting is planned for March 17, 2026, at the Lloyd House.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Williams, OHA

Roberta Stevens, HARC Secretary

