



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
Neighborhood Services Division

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DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD
Wednesday, August 15, 2018
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Lobby Rooms Cherry and Dogwood

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sara Afragola
Charles Craig
Omari Davis
Robert Dudka
Sarah Garner
Gerry Laporte
Joan Lawrence, Chairman
Sara Steinberger
Mark Turnbull
Andrew Wenchel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carmela Hamm
Richard Woodruff, Vice Chairman

STAFF: John Liebertz, Historic Preservation Planner
Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Specialist

ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mr. Liebertz called the roll and determined there was a quorum. The Chairman inquired about formal name tags for the new board members. Mr. Liebertz responded that the name tags would be ready for next month's meetings. Mr. Turnbull arrived a few minutes late.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

The Chairman called for any changes to the July 18, 2018, draft meeting minutes. There were no changes. Mr. Dudka moved to approve the draft minutes and Mr. Laporte seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0-2, with Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Davis abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (CoAs)

The Chairman stated there were three items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Jarrod Tsukada & Alison Jones
2330 North Jackson Street
CoA 18-04C (HP1800034)
Maywood Historic District
Request to amend CoA 18-04 for the addition of two skylights on the rear slope of the roof.

2. Sean Cogley & Elizabeth Spatz
3606 21st Avenue North
CoA 18-15 (HP1800032)
Maywood Historic District
Request to refinish the existing steps, add flagstone to the existing walkway, install a metal handrail, and rehabilitate the existing stone retaining wall.

3. Ballston Retail, LLC
256 North Glebe Road
CoA 18-16 (HP1800033)
Buckingham Village Historic District
Request to alter the face of the existing signage.

The Chairman called for any questions or comments on the consent agenda items. There were none. Ms. Steinberger moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Craig seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman stated there were no Administrative CoAs.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

The Chairman stated that the only item on the discussion agenda was the second review of the proposed Clarendon War Memorial marker. Ms. Bolliger introduced the new changes as discussed at the previous HALRB meeting. Mr. Laporte said that the mixed use of the words “memorial” and “monument” was confusing and should be standardized. Mr. Liebertz explained that it originally was called the “American Legion Memorial Monument” in 1931 and it was used in that context on the marker for that reason. However, at the County’s World War I (WWI) Task Force meeting last evening, members discussed if the name should be specified further to the “American Legion Memorial of Arlington” or “American Legion Memorial in Arlington” as this memorial is for all of Arlington’s fallen soldiers. The HALRB discussed whether it was necessary to indicate that the monument was in or of Arlington.

Mr. Liebertz asked the HALRB which name they preferred to refer to the monument. Mr. Craig asked which name/title the American Legion used. Ms. Bolliger replied that the representative from the Legion had e-mailed her saying he called it the Clarendon War Memorial, but he had agreed to either the “Arlington American Legion Memorial” or the “American Legion Memorial of Arlington” at the prior WWI Task Force meeting. Mr. Laporte suggested that ‘of Arlington’ or ‘in Arlington’ could be included below the main title text.

Mr. Dudka asked how the [original] names on the memorial were sourced given that Arlington County had been known as Alexandria County during part of the period of interest. Mr. Liebertz explained that the names had been crowdsourced in the early 1930s and that in fact he had recently discovered that there are at least four names missing, possibly five (depending on the board's consideration of Del Ray as part of Arlington County prior to annexation by the city of Alexandria). Ms. Steinberger reported that the American Legion preferred to cast a second plaque with the new names once the names were confirmed. Mr. Dudka stated that if a new plaque was cast, it would probably include language about the new dedication and then it would not need to be included on the Memorial marker. Ms. Steinberger repeated an idea explained by Dr. Finkelstein at last evening's WWI Task Force meeting -- that historical records are often discovered, lost, and/or found to be erroneous, so this discovery is not unexpected nor is it necessarily the conclusion of this research.

Mr. Liebertz handed out copies of the names and provenance records for the five men identified as being from Arlington County, then explained the research methods. Ms. Steinberger suggested that this research be made available to the public. Mr. Liebertz said that this was an idea that staff already was considering. Mr. Dudka asked whether the County had a GIS layer of markers which could hold this information. Mr. Liebertz responded there might be a privately owned website, but not one owned or maintained by the County. The board and staff discussed various means to share the information with the public, including the drafting of a journal article for the historical society's publication and the creation of websites linked to by QR codes. Members of the board discussed the concern about technology becoming outdated and inaccessible to those who do not use systems like QR codes. Mr. Liebertz responded that the QR code would be placed on the marker with a sticker, therefore it could be easily removed from the interpretive display.

Mr. Wenchel noted some inconsistencies in the use of "memorial" and "monument." Mr. Laporte offered his comments to staff, both in written form and verbally. Mr. Laporte noted that the information about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was misleading because the memorial was not dedicated until the early 1930s; staff agreed to research and clarify the language.

Ms. Garner asked if the County used a writing style. Mr. Liebertz explained that HPP staff uses the Chicago Manual of Style, but often stylistic elements later are changed for the informal/conversational nature of historic markers. In addition, he noted that Arlington County prefers that County be capitalized when it references Arlington. Ms. Garner asked that there be more consistency with the capitalization and use of "memorial" and "monument." Mr. Laporte asked if the board would see the marker again. Mr. Dudka said he would be happy to let Mr. Laporte lead the marker editing process offline.

Mr. Laporte asked about the stories of the cannons around the monument. Ms. Bolliger explained that this history had been included on the first marker draft; however, the WWI Task Force recommended that it be removed for space reasons and for concerns that the histories reported might not be fully accurate. Mr. Laporte stated concern that the proposed marker was more about the American Legion than about the memorial itself. Mr. Craig and Ms. Steinberger explained that part of the point of the marker was to show that the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts still used this location as a place of remembrance. Mr. Laporte reiterated that

he believed more history should be included. Ms. Steinberger agreed, however, she noted the concern of the Task Force that the histories of the cannons could not be verified and that including apocryphal history might be more detrimental than including none at all.

Ms. Afragola noted that one of the bullet points was cut off and if the dots were smaller, then they would fill the space better. She also noted that the paragraph indent did not follow the curve of the bullet point. Ms. Garner suggested that staff work with the fabrication firm to ensure that printing quality would match the end goal since the variety of printings created by staff all resulted in variations of photos and accent colors. Mr. Liebertz stated that the manufacturer would send a printed sample to confirm the color outcome.

The Chairman recommended that any other comments be emailed to staff. Mr. Liebertz made the closing statement that finding the additional names has pushed back the timeline for marker production and that the fabrication of the grouping of war markers might be pushed back to Memorial Day. Mr. Liebertz also explained that with the new names and the possible dedication of a new plaque, the County's leadership was considering closely how to celebrate the discovery. Since the memorial is on County land, the County has interest in ensuring that the information is representative of the County and that all Arlington residents are represented and celebrated equally. Ms. Steinberger noted that at the recent WWI Task Force meeting, a representative of Arlington's historically Black American Legion post (the Dorie Miller post) had expressed the post's support for retaining the historic plaque in situ. Ms. Steinberger further explained that American Legion Post 139 (which has erected all the memorial plaques) has stated that it would defer to the Dorie Miller post on their opinion about retaining the plaque.

Mr. Liebertz asked if the HALRB wanted to see the marker draft again at a meeting or if they would find an email submission acceptable. The Chairman took a vote on approving the marker in concept, with any additional edits being sent by e-mail, so that there would be a record of the board having approved the marker in its official minutes. The Chairman moved to approve the marker in concept with additional edits and changes sent via email. Ms. Steinberger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF

Chairman's Report: The Chairman explained that the HALRB was not expected to man a table or booth at the upcoming County Fair since the Arlington Historical Society had not requested aid. The Chairman informed the board that the Devines had appealed the decision to reject the replacement of their metal shingle roof [with asphalt] to the circuit court. The Chairman explained that the board had been named in the suit, but as board members were immune from the lawsuit. Mr. Dudka asked that the board be kept apprised of the case. Mr. Craig asked if it had been assigned to a judge. Mr. Liebertz stated that he was not sure. Ms. Steinberger asked which month the case had come to the HALRB so she could check the minutes and reacquaint herself with the case. Ms. Garner said she believed it was March 2017. [The HALRB denial occurred in April 2017 and the County Board affirmed the decision in June 2018.]

Staff's Report:

Staff report

Mr. Liebertz informed the board that the Preservation Virginia conference would be held in Danville in October and encouraged members to attend. He reminded the board that they are expected to attend one historic preservation educational event, conference, lecture, etc. per year; staff reports this participation back to the state historic preservation office annually. Mr. Dudka recommended that a preservation professional be brought in to speak to the board as a group educational event. The Chairman explained to the new board members that there would be a training in September when all the new members could be present and that they would be provided with the HALRB handbook.

WWI Task Force update

Ms. Steinberger requested support at the County Fair. She invited all board members to attend and support the staffing of the WWI tour bus at the fair on Friday evening, Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 10am-4pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.