

**MINUTES OF THE  
HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 5-7 PM**

*This was a virtual public meeting held through electronic communication means.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Omari Davis  
Sarah Garner, Vice Chairwoman  
Jennie Gwin  
Carmela Hamm  
Gerry Laporte  
Joan Lawrence  
Robert Meden  
Mark Turnbull  
Richard Woodruff, Chairman

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** John Aiken  
Robert Dudka  
Liz Rogers  
Andrew Wenchel

**STAFF:** Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Historic Preservation Supervisor  
Lorin Farris, Historic Preservation Planner  
Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

The Chairman called the meeting to order. Ms. Liccese-Torres called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

**EXPLANATION OF PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES**

The Chairman explained the virtual Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) public hearing procedures and stated that the virtual meeting format was necessitated as a precaution to protect the Board, staff, and community members from the spread of COVID-19. He communicated the legal authority under which the County was able to hold virtual public hearings, citing the Governor's Executive Orders, legislation adopted by the Virginia General Assembly, and the County Board's Continuity of Operations Ordinance adopted in March 2020. The Chairman then described the logistics of how the virtual meeting would proceed via the Microsoft Teams platform and/or the call-in number.

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2021 AND MAY 19, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

The Chairman asked for questions or comments on the draft April and May minutes. Ms. Gwin stated she had no concerns and would be willing to support a motion to approve them. Mr. Laporte mentioned a question on the April minutes about the motion on the Jennie Dean Park markers on page 19. He noted that the motion indicated staff only was authorized to forward minor and technical changes to the marker

language. He explained that the marker which had returned for second review had similar language to the first draft marker and he had been under the impression that substantial changes would be made before returning for HALRB review. He had then understood that the HALRB would be able to submit more than minor and technical changes and had done so, not realizing the limitation of the motion language.

Ms. Bolliger explained that she had shared Mr. Laporte’s comments with Mr. Jeremy Smith of the County’s Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Green Valley civic association, without discriminating over whether they were technical and minor or factual. She also explained that based on their statement at the [April] meeting, she had been under the impression that the civic association team was happy with the marker and would take comments into consideration but would not automatically implement them without discussion.

Mr. Laporte asked to improve the marker approval system to submit HALRB edits to the design teams before text was set. He noted how this was not the first time that text had been submitted which was considered final by the applicant but not final by the HALRB’s exacting standards for County markers.

The Chairman agreed that the issue was valid and asked Mr. Laporte whether it affected his support of the minutes. Mr. Laporte asked how the minutes were prepared. Ms. Bolliger replied that the minutes are prepared from the meeting recordings and that motions are transcribed verbatim. Mr. Laporte then agreed to support the draft minutes as submitted.

Ms. Bolliger indicated that Ms. Liccese-Torres and Ms. Hamm had their hands raised in the meeting. Ms. Liccese-Torres invited Ms. Hamm to speak first. Ms. Hamm reminded the board that she had had an edit of the language on the Jennie Dean Park marker explaining the history of the park’s name. Ms. Bolliger agreed that Ms. Hamm’s proposed language change had been agreed upon and said she would ask Mr. Smith for the latest drafts of the markers and would send them to the commissioners. Ms. Liccese-Torres confirmed that Ms. Gwin had made the motion to approve the April meeting minutes and Mr. Laporte seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-3; Ms. Garner, Mr. Meden, and Mr. Turnbull abstained.

Ms. Lawrence moved to approve the draft May minutes as submitted and Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further questions; upon hearing none, he asked Ms. Liccese-Torres to call the roll. The motion passed 7-0-2; Ms. Garner and Ms. Hamm abstained.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (CoAs)  
CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1) Tessie and Tucker Abraham  
3607 22<sup>nd</sup> Street North, CoA 21-11  
Maywood Local Historic District  
Request to replace non-historic deteriorating wood window in bathroom with vinyl window.
- 2) Brian Irwin  
3301 22<sup>nd</sup> Street North, CoA 21-12  
Maywood Local Historic District  
Request to change front porch decking material from wood to composite of same dimension.

The Chairman called for any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda and there were none. The Chairman moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Davis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

## **REPORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF**

The Chairman explained that a new member had been expected to join the board but because of an oversight she had not been appointed yet. He continued that he expected her to be appointed in time for the next commission meeting. The Chairman then noted the resignation of member Liz Rogers in order to dedicate more time to a new job. He thanked her for her service and contributions to the commission. The Chairman welcomed Vice Chairwoman Garner back from an excused absence.

### **Staff and Other Reports**

Ms. Liccese-Torres informed the Board that the staff vacancy had been filled and that the new hire, Ms. Mical Tawney, will be joining the team next week; she will conduct inspections in the Local Historic Districts and general outreach for the program.

Ms. Liccese-Torres described the recent unveiling and dedication of an interpretive trail project at Dorothy Hamm Middle School, formerly Stratford Junior High School, where panels had been under development to commemorate the desegregation of Virginia public schools. She encouraged the commissioners to visit the markers, having seen schematic designs for the markers in 2019. Ms. Liccese-Torres mentioned that the event had been recorded and encouraged the members to view the ceremony.

Ms. Hamm thanked the HALRB and Historic Preservation staff for their work in overseeing the expansion of the historic school and development of the commemorative trail. Ms. Hamm explained that her goal was to include Arlington's school desegregation on the United States Civil Rights Trail. Ms. Liccese-Torres thanked Ms. Hamm for her work and offered staff assistance with that effort. The Chairman thanked Ms. Hamm and the board for their contributions. Lastly, Ms. Lawrence thanked everyone who had been involved in the project and urged the commissioners to visit the addition and trail.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:33 PM.