



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Neighborhood Services Division

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## MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD

Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
County Board Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joan Lawrence, Chairman  
Charles Craig  
Robert Dudka  
Greg Holcomb  
Gerry Laporte  
Andy Wenchel  
Richard Woodruff  
Mark Turnbull

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Charles Matta, Vice Chairman  
Nathan Uldricks  
Tova Solo  
Kevin Vincent

**STAFF:** Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Program Coordinator  
Rebecca Ballo, Preservation Planner  
John Liebertz, Preservation Planner

### 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.

### MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 18, 2015

The Chairman noted that the February 18, 2015, meeting minutes would be reviewed at the April HALRB meeting due to technical issues.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (CoAs)

The Chairman stated the public hearing procedures. She requested that any attendees who wished to make public testimony submit a speaker slip.

The Chairman announced that there were two cases on the Consent Agenda. The Chairman called for a motion on the consent agenda. Mr. Crag moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (7-0; Ms. Solo had not yet arrived).

- CONSENT AGENDA (CoAs):**
- 1) 3624 21st Avenue North  
Glen and Brooke Vogel  
Maywood Historic District  
HALRB Case 14-14A (HP1500003)  
Request to amend CoA 14-14 in order to: 1) add screening to an approved porch located at the southeast corner of the new addition; and 2) utilize asphalt shingles instead of standing seam metal on the roof of the new addition.
  - 2) 3321 23rd Street North  
Cecilia Kennedy  
Maywood Historic District  
HALRB Case 14-02A (HP1500004)  
Request to amend CoA 14-02 in order to: 1) remove the previously approved stormwater planter; 2) replace the approved concrete two-strip driveway with a permeable paver driveway; and 3) install a permeable paver path to the front and side entries.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA** 1) None

**ADMINISTRATIVE COAs** 1) None

**REPORT FROM VIRGINIA TECH GRADUATE STUDENTS ON LITTLE SAIGON**

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Morton, Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, Judd Ullom and Carlin Tacey, graduate students at Virginia Tech. Ms. Tacey thanked Ms. Liccese-Torres who worked with the students over the course of a year. She introduced the scope of the study which addressed cultural diversity concerns in Arlington County, Virginia. She discussed one of the student project’s titled “Echoes of Little Saigon.” She presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed Little Saigon’s former location (Clarendon), research and documentation regarding the community, and oral histories completed by the students. Ms. Tacey noted how Clarendon was perfectly situated for the influx of the Vietnamese immigrants after the fall of Saigon in April 1975 due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., and inexpensive rents and commercial vacancies. She displayed numerous maps that illustrated the presence and number of Vietnamese businesses previously in Clarendon.

Ms. Tacey stated that the graduate students decided that oral histories would be the best way to augment the archival research completed on Little Saigon. Interviewees were asked to discuss their story of immigration, life in Little Saigon, and any recollections about the community. The students channeled this information into numerous mediums including: Wikipedia, outline for a historic marker, contacting ArlingtonTV, etc.

Mr. Ullom discussed the deliverables produced from this graduate study in greater detail. The students established a website: <http://www.littlesaigonclarendon.com>. The website became the public repository

for all archival documents, maps, and interviews. In addition, the students collated all available history on Little Saigon and posted this information to Wikipedia. Another deliverable was the collaboration with a non-profit multimedia mapping site called “East of Main Street.” This organization geotags Pacific American neighborhoods and histories in the United States.

Mr. Ullom added that the students studied the creation of a historic marker for the Little Saigon community. They examined the potential design of the marker and its proposed location. He noted their support of the May 9, 2015, event that commemorates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Little Saigon. The student’s recommended the construction of a contemporary marker (similar to the Bob Peck Historic Marker) instead of a traditional NPS-styled historic marker. The interviewees advocated for imagery and symbology reflective of Vietnamese culture in the interpretive marker.

Mr. Ullom discussed his upcoming Master’s program Capstone Project that will continue his involvement with Little Saigon. He is working with the Michael Horsley, a local photographer, who photographed and documented Clarendon in the 1980s. Mr. Horsley’s collection has numerous photographs of Little Saigon business and views of Clarendon. Mr. Ullom recognized that while the bricks and mortars of the stores still exist, the history/story of Little Saigon is fractured due to the dispersion of the Vietnamese community. In collaboration with the Clarendon Alliance, Mr. Horsley is creating QRC stickers that can be attached to the entrance of Clarendon storefronts that formerly housed Vietnamese businesses. Scanning the QR code with a smart device will link the user to a website dedicated to Little Saigon and information on that building. This will allow for a direct connection between the collective memories of Little Saigon to the present-day. The QR code stickers themselves could be artistically designed to reflect Vietnamese imagery or photographs of the former Vietnamese businesses.

Mr. Ullom and Ms. Tacey shared the 15-minute YouTube video “Echoes of Little Saigon” created from the oral history interviews. Dr. Morton thanked the students and distributed a flyer for the upcoming event on May 9, 2015.

The HALRB congratulated the students on the quality and effectiveness of the video and the overall project. The HALRB asked the students questions about the project, future work and development, and shared personal recollections about Little Saigon.

#### **REPORTS OF CHAIRMAN, STAFF AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A) Chairman’s Report: The Chairman noted that she provided comments to the County Board on the FY 2016 Budget. She advocated for funding for a number of items, including but not limited to additional allocation for the preservation and maintenance of county owned historic buildings/resources and implementation of the recommendations made by the History Task Force. The HALRB and HP staff had a larger discussion about the establishment of a historic preservation fund and other similar mechanisms in other jurisdictions.

The Chairman briefly discussed the Affordable Housing Working Group and upcoming community forums. She noted that there will be a presentation to the HALRB. The County’s Affordable Housing website has meeting location and times for all upcoming events.

The Chairman conveyed developments with the Wilson School local historic designation. She stated that the Request to Advertise (RTA) adopted by the County Board included the

historic district boundaries recommended by the HALRB. The item will be heard at the Planning Commission on April 6, 2015, and the County Board on April 18 or 21, 2015. She requested that HALRB members attend both meetings. Mr. Dudka added that he purchased Charles Robinson's original drawings for the Wilson School. He noted that these will be critical in any potential restoration of the Wilson School and will be shared at the upcoming meetings.

The Chairman welcomed Craig Deering who is under consideration for appointment to the HALRB. Mr. Deering introduced himself and noted his experiences with historic preservation.

Survey: Mr. Liebertz noted that Cambridge Courts Local Historic District and Design Guidelines would be submitted to the condo association in April.

- B) Site Plan Review: Ms. Ballo discussed APS' planning process for both Stratford Junior High School and the Wilson School. The members of the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) were selected. APS and County Staff are discussing the upcoming schedule for the meetings. Mr. Dudka and Mr. Craig were appointed to attend the meetings for Stratford School and Ms. Lawrence for Wilson School.

Ms. Ballo discussed the County Board hearing of Site Plan — 2025 Clarendon Boulevard (Wendy's). She noted that there was no discussion regarding historic preservation. The county board members praised the applicant and staff for their work on the easement for Wakefield and Courthouse Manor.

- C) Staff and Other Reports: Mr. Liebertz stated that a historic marker for Arlington Lodge No. 58 will be presented to the HALRB in April.

Ms. Ballo noted that the National Register listing of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia, will be celebrated at the church's services on March 21, 2015.

The HALRB discussed the upcoming development at Stratford Junior High School, future involvement of the HALRB in the planning process, and potential local historic designation of the site.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.