

Rock Island Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1528 3rd Avenue

February 26, 2025

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Diane Oestreich Alan Carmen Zach Campbell Jeff Dismer Bruce Peterson Estlin Fiegley Addison Kimmel
Voting Members Absent	Mark Schwiebert
Staff Present	Eunice Amissah-Mensah

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Oestreich called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and read the roll call.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Carmen moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 21, 2024 with an amendment. Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7 to 0.

Other Business/ New Business

Review of Old Chicago Neighborhood Resources Survey

Anney Grish from AltusWorksInc provided some insight into the data and information collection process for the survey. She stated that the survey aims to identify properties needing immediate attention and provide documentation on the history, present state, and future preservation of these houses.

Commissioners asked for clarification on the tiers for the identified historic structures. Anney Grish explained the tier system used in the survey, which ranks properties from tier one (most significant) to tier four (conditional potential) based on architectural and historical value with tier one properties being strong candidates for local landmark designation or national register listing.

Commissioners requested that a list of addresses and specific recommendations for the properties identified in the survey be provided. Commissioners also discussed identifying historic worker housing, referencing a 1999 survey. Anney stated that while some examples exist, a continuous district with high integrity was not apparent.

Other Business

Commissioner Carmen provided the commission with an update on the Centennial Bridge. "Commissioner Carmen reported that he attended the February 18 Davenport

City Council Management Report / Mayor / Council Discussion where Illinois and Iowa Department of Transportation and Parsons staff provided an overview of the Centennial Bridge Study. Parsons is the primary engineering contractor. They have extensive and long-time experience with bridges projects. Illinois DOT is the lead public agency. They are currently in Phase 1 of 3 phases. The study area is from Government (railroad) Bridge to Lock & Dam 15. They are now looking at existing conditions and alternatives.

The process will include setting up Community Advisory Group, Technical Advisory Group, four public meetings (the 1st is scheduled for 4/17 @ Rock Island Holiday Inn, 1 - 6 p.m.), and a public hearing. A website will also be created. The study's objective is to improve vehicular travel and non-motorized transport across the Mississippi River given the age and condition of Centennial Bridge.

Phase 1 includes analyzing existing conditions, including the Section 106 historic preservation review and Section 4f review of impact on public parks and resources. Timing of the entire study is: Phase 1 - 30 months; Phase 2 - 24+ months (this is design phase for new bridge or rehabbing existing bridge and acquiring additional right-of-way, if needed); and Phase 3 - Construction (2 - 4 years). The entire process could take 10 years. There were four possible options that were discussed at a separate public meeting is as follows: renovate the existing bridge, new bridge aligned from 20th Street Rock Island to Brady Street Davenport, New bridge aligned from 11th Street to Marquette Street Davenport and demolish existing Centennial Bridge and build new bridge at same location.

Davenport Council members asked general questions about timing and process. Council member Marion McGinnis stated her concern about impact on historic resources (the Bridge and buildings in downtown Davenport & Rock Island). Mayor Matson recognized and thanked Doug House, retired ILDOT Deputy Director, for having raised concern about the bridge.

After the meeting, Mr. Carmen spoke with retired Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert and Kyle Carter of the Downtown Davenport Partnership. Both expressed concern about how this would / could adversely affect both downtowns and the potential negative impact of any new bridge alignment. The same update was to be given to Rock Island City Council at its February 24 Study Session, but the meeting was canceled due to the Jakarta Jackson shooting protest.”

Commissioner Oestreich noted that Broadway is planning a home tour for Mother's Day, May 11th, featuring historic houses in Rock Island.

Adjournment

Chair Oestreich called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carmen moved to adjourn the meeting. Campbell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amissah-Mensah.