

**City of Rock Island  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor  
1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

**January 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Oestreich called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Chair Oestreich called the roll.

Alan Carmen, Jeff Dismer, Bruce Peterson, Zach Campbell, Addison Kimmel, Estlin Fiegley, Diane Oestreich, Linda Anderson, and Mark Schwiebert were present.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

Campbell moved to approve the meeting minutes for August 27, 2025. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 8 to 0.

**5. Other Business/ New Business**

**New Business**

Discussion on Most Significant Structures

Staff presented a draft program for the Historic Structures and Sites Inventory, formerly the "MoSUS list." Staff stated that the inventory will continue to identify buildings, areas, and objects of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance, using the original 100-property MoSUS list as a starting point. Staff proposed a three-tier system classifying properties by designation readiness: Tier 1 for "landmark ready" properties, Tier 2 for those needing further research, and Tier 3 for properties meeting at least one criterion requiring basic documentation. The nomination process is open to residents, property owners, and staff.

Alderman Dylan Parker emphasized that the inventory should function as a strategic pipeline for landmarking rather than simply a recognition system for historic properties. He suggested it be used to identify and aggregate unprotected historic properties, focusing efforts on securing formal protection.

Commissioners agreed, recommending that property owners be notified of their classification along with information on the benefits and process of landmark designation.

Staff stated the process will be reviewed and brought back to the Commissioners for another discussion.

### City Landmark Certificate

Commissioners reviewed designs for landmark certificates presented, Commissioners selected a traditional parchment-style certificate with a gold seal and suggested the City of Rock Island's logo be included for a professional appearance.

### Update on New Landmark Plaque Creation

Commissioners Campbell and Dismar discussed materials for landmark plaques, considering bronze as the standard but also exploring more cost-effective and visually distinctive options, such as laser-cut metal from local vendors.

## **6. Other Business**

### CLG Grant

Osing announced a new round of Certified Local Government (CLG) grants, with \$140,000 available statewide and a maximum award of \$30,000. Alderman Parker proposed hiring a consultant to develop a marketing and branding plan for the City's historic districts, emphasizing the need to make survey work and historic assets more visible to the public. Commissioner Carmen suggested expanding the focus beyond downtown to include the Highland Park Historic District and other local landmarks. Commissioners also discussed coordinating walking tours with the Downtown Alliance's "Second Saturdays" events to increase community engagement.

### Centennial Bridge Update

Commissioner Carmen provided an update on the Centennial Bridge study, noting that two design alternatives, total demolition/replacement in the same alignment and the 13th Street to Warren Street configuration, have been removed. He stated that the current options under consideration include: doing nothing or rehabilitating the existing structure, which is the preferred choice among citizens; constructing a twin bridge for separate northbound and southbound traffic; rebuilding the existing bridge from the deck up while removing the arches; and new alignments at Marquette & 11th Street.

Alderman Parker stated that an engineering analysis to clarify how much land would actually be made available for redevelopment if the bridge were relocated should be provided, expressing skepticism about that rationale.

Commissioners voted to have the chair send a letter to the project team reaffirming support for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the existing historic structure. The motion carried unanimously.

### Upcoming Events

Chair Oestreich announced that the Broadway Mother's Day Tour will take place on 23rd Street. She also noted that the "Understanding Historic Preservation" educational series will begin on April 16th at the Deere-Wiman House, with a follow-up session on substitute materials scheduled for May 21st.

### **7. Adjournment**

Schwiebert moved to adjourn. Fiegley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 9-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amissah-Mensah.