

**City of Rock Island
Historic Preservation Commission
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

April 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Oestreich called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

2. Roll Call

Chair Oestreich called the roll.

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

Bruce Peterson and Zach Campbell were absent.

Staff present included Planning & Zoning Manager Tanner Osing.

3. Public Comment

No other public comments were made.

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Dismer moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 25, 2026. Fiegley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7 to 0.

5. Other Business/ New Business

New Business

Case 2026-02: Certificate of Appropriateness application for 1301 24th Street

Amisah-Mensah presented the staff report noting staff's recommendation of approval of the described scope of work.

John Gripp, Director of Parks and Recreation spoke on the request. He explained that the City wished to recognize Rotary for their commitment and noted that donor recognition signage is commonly used due to limited funding availability for playground replacements. The proposed sign was described as a pillar approximately three feet wide.

Todd Linscott, representing Friends of Hauberg, expressed concerns regarding the proposed naming, stating support for identifying the playground area as "Rotary

Playground,” but objected to renaming the broader field area due to the historic identity of Hauberg Field. Chair Oestreich also expressed concerns regarding naming the entire field, noting opposition to that approach.

Commissioners further discussed the lack of visual details related to the seating area and lighting improvements. Commissioner Dismer stated that while the hardscaping elements appeared acceptable, additional details regarding the lighting fixtures and sign structure should be provided before action was taken. Mr. Gripp clarified that the proposed lighting would consist of a single arched, historically styled pole similar to those located along 17th Street.

Anderson moved to defer action on the Certificate of Appropriateness application to the next meeting. for the work as described and with suggestions provided by Commissioners Dismer. Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7 to 0. (Oestreich, Carmen, Dismer, Kimmel, Anderson, Fiegley, and Schwiebert)

Other Business

Historic Design Guidelines Update

The Commission discussed the Historic Design Guidelines draft. Commissioners noted the document is very comprehensive but repetitive in its discussion of architectural styles.

Commissioners are to submit detailed comments to city staff by May 20th.

Most Significant Structures Update

Staff provided an update on the significant structures list to include a fourth tier for lost or at-risk resources to maintain a historical record of demolished building.

Other Updates

Commissioners wanted to know if there were any updates to the state of the old Memorial Christian Church and expressed concern that the building may be demolished due to its condition and the cost of repairs. Staff responded that the city has not yet taken title but is conducting environmental and structural assessments.

A public meeting for the Centennial Bridge is scheduled for May 20th at the Holiday Inn to announce the preferred alternative for the bridge project.

Commissioner Dismer reported a quote of \$3,600 for 25 signs (roughly \$144 per sign). He is continuing to look into charitable contributions or bulk pricing.

Commissioners discussed State Legislation (HB 5626 / SB 4060) that could preempt local zoning control to allow for increased housing density. Commissioners noted the moral challenge the bill brings in balancing the need for affordable housing with the preservation of single-family historic neighborhoods. Commissioners also expressed

concern that subdividing historic homes into apartments often leads to the deterioration of the housing stock.

6. Adjournment

Commission Oestreich announced that the Broadway Mother's Day Tour will take place on May 10th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM on 23rd Street.

Schwiebert moved to adjourn. Carmen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amissah-Mensah.

DRAFT