

Rock Island Preservation Commission Minutes

Council Chambers (3rd Floor), City Hall

1528 3rd Avenue

January 31, 2024

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Linda Anderson Bruce Peterson Diane Oestreich Addison Kimmel Robert Braun Alan Carmen Mark Schwiebert – departed at 6:56pm Deb Kuntzi
Voting Members Absent	
Associate Members Present	None
Associate Members Absent	Jeff Dimer
Staff Present	Tanner Osing Eunice Amissah-Mensah
Guests	None

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Braun called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and read the roll call.

Public Comment

No member of the public stepped forward for comments at this time, so the meeting continued.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Schwiebert moved to approve the minutes for November 16, 2023. Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 9 to 0.

Other Business/New Business

Presentation on the Reservoir Park Project

Mike Bartels, Director of Public Works and Jason Upton, Utilities Superintendent, made a presentation to the Preservation Commission on the Reservoir Park Project due to the park's location in a historic district. Bartels stated the presentation was made to the City Council and delved into the issues faced with the water tanks and different options for their replacement.

Bartels and Upton provided background on the project noting the location, type and size of the tanks that will be replaced at the Reservoir Park and stated the reason this project needs to be done is because the current tanks do not meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Standards and American Water Works Association (AWWA). Upton stated the state of the domes does not affect the quality of water.

Osing provided background on the project noting that the Preservation Commission has an opportunity to add their input.

Schwiebert asked about how the project may affect the City's partnership with the Rock Island Arsenal. Upton stated the Arsenal has their own water supply and they are responsible for maintaining their water infrastructure while the City helps with operations. Schwiebert further asked if the Arsenal's water storage is reaching a point of obsolescence where the City will have to step in to help with the supply of water. Upton stated that there have been suggestions made for the City of Rock Island to be the sole source of water supply but federal institutions prefer to manage their own supply.

Carmen asked if interconnections with other cities were taken into consideration during the analysis. Upton responded affirmatively. Upton also stated the project will look into power generation and all other factors were taken into consideration during the evaluation process.

A resident asked for an explanation of what amount of storage is needed. Upton responded with the needed storage and presented graphics indicating the location and layout for the water tanks and outlined the funding, cost and savings necessary for the project.

Schwiebert asked how a square tank will be situated and the capacity. Bartels responded that it will still carry 5 million gallons and the footprint 200 feet x 190 feet. It will be situated on the north side of the park and the elevation be similar to the dome option.

Schwiebert asked if there will be a difference between a round dome or a rectangular tank in terms of the 80-year life span. Bartels responded that they will have the same life span and quality. Dismar stated that a rectangular tank will have a smaller footprint. Oestreich asked if berming will be done for the new structures. Bartels responded negatively but landscaping and trees will be added to the proposal.

Residents from Highland Park Historic District expressed concern for the safety of the neighborhood, asked questions about the project and, provided comments and suggestions about alternative designs and conservation and preservation efforts that could be applied to the Reservoir Park project.

Bartels thanked everyone for their input and stated their concerns and inputs will be taken into consideration in the final project draft.

Schwiebert added that aesthetics needs to be considered and acknowledged that the inclusion of the brick wall helps achieve that end. He also suggested the Public Works Department works with the Parks Department on tree conservation efforts and to include screening materials where possible. Schwiebert emphasized the need to be mindful of the cost that comes with the project so taxpayers do not shoulder the burden.

Comment on US Cellular project at the Fort Armstrong Hotel

Osing stated the project came before the commission during a previous meeting and the commission opted to become a consulting party on the project. He added there was not a lot of detail provided initially but US Cellular is proposing to remove three (3) existing antennas and replace them with three (3) new ones.

Chair Braun asked for a motion to direct staff to submit comments, as provided by the commission to the project consultant. Schwiebert moved to direct staff to submit comments that the proposed undertaking has no adverse effect on the property nor other properties in the area. Carmen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 9 to 0.

Other Business

Updates on CLG grants

Osing stated the National Park District approved the Broadway District nomination. Osing also added the Old Chicago Neighborhood historic resources survey submitted in the summer for a CLG grant received approval and funding of \$21,000 with a \$9000 match for which staff time will be used. The grant agreement will be on the February 12 City Council agenda for approval. Osing stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued where consulting firm will be hired for the project shortly after the agreement is approved.

Kuntzi asked if there has been any discussions on updates to the membership terms of the Preservation Commission ordinance. Osing responded that it is still on the radar and will bring updates back to the commission.

Anderson asked about the building permit and review process entails and how builders can be informed on appropriate materials to be used for historic buildings. Osing responded that a Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued ahead of time. He added that once the Certificate of Appropriateness is approved, it is passed on to the Inspections Division.

Adjournment

Chair Braun asked for a motion to adjourn. Oestreich moved to adjourn. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 9 to 0 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amissah-Mensah