

Rock Island Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Lower Level Conference Room (Basement), City Hall

1528 3rd Avenue

August 28, 2024

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Jeff Dimer Addison Kimmel Diane Oestreich Bruce Peterson Alan Carmen Zach Campbell Estlin Fiegley
Voting Members Absent	Deb Kuntzi Mark Schwiebert
Staff Present	Eunice Amissah-Mensah Tanner Osing
Others Present	Ald. Dylan Parker Gregg Johnson, Illinois State Representative Michael Halpin, Illinois State Senator

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Oestreich called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM and read the roll call.

Public Comment

No general comments were made, so the meeting continued.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Carmen moved to approve the special meeting minutes for June 20, 2024. Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0.

Dimer moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 31, 2024. Carmen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0.

Other Business/ New Business

Discussion on the Centennial Bridge with Illinois State Senator, Michael Halpin and Illinois State Representative, Gregg Johnson

Alderman Dylan Parker thanked Halpin and Johnson for being present at the meeting. He stated the matter of the Centennial Bridge has been brought up by the Commission and that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is exploring if the bridge needs to be replaced. He called on the Commission to share their position on the Centennial Bridge project.

Chair Oestreich spoke on behalf of the Commission reiterating the resolution made by the Commission to maintain the Centennial Bridge for its economic, iconic and historic

importance. She added that the bridge has also been failed to be maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Commissioner Carmen added that the lack of maintenance of the Centennial Bridge has necessitated its deterioration. He stated that the bridge is important for both Iowa and Illinois communities. He added that the Commission has taken its stance and would appreciate further insight from the project.

Ald. Parker stated that IDOT will conduct an analysis on the present condition of the bridge and alternatives on whether or not to pursue changes to the bridge. Senator Halpin concurred with Ald. Parker's statement. He added that IDOT understands that the bridge needs repairs and maintenance. He added that IDOT received \$7 million for coating the bridge but in consultation with Iowa DOT, a decision was made to put the money towards a study for what replacement or repair options were available.

Chair Oestreich asked if there is a firm already contracted for the engineering study. Senator Halpin stated it would be given to a consultant to handle the study. Osing stated that its his understanding that a contract is being negotiated with Parsons.

Further discussion was had on the bridge project including its economic impact and different ways for people to get engaged with the issue. It was suggested that the Illinois Department of Transportation, local state elected officials, and Rock Island Downtown Alliance receive the resolution drafted by the Commission regarding their stance on the replacement of the Centennial Bridge. Ald. Parker also suggested that Jack Cullen, Executive Director of Downtown Alliance, be invited to the Commission meeting to have a discussion on the project and its potential effects on businesses in the downtown area.

Commissioner Carmen agreed to draft a written resolution and discussed other next steps.

Other Business

Osing provided information regarding a CBDG-funded project at the Downtown Library.

Osing also informed the commissioner that staff plan on evaluating the Heritage Resources Plan and discuss next steps for implementation with the Commission.

Adjournment

Chair Oestreich called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. Kimmel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amisah-Mensah.