

## Rock Island Beautification Commission Agenda

Online call-in with Google Meet

(US) +1 316-302-5990 PIN: 457 724 740#

February 22, 2021

5:00 PM



**Notice:** This meeting will be conducted by audio and video conference without a physically present quorum due to the disaster declaration issued by Governor Pritzker. As a result of this order related to COVID-19 public health concerns affecting the State and the City, the Mayor has determined that in-person meetings at City Hall with all participants are not practical or prudent.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Bob Towler	Todd Linscott	Emily Smith
Sue McDevitt	Jane Tschappat	David VanLandegen
Wanda Lambert	Roy Plasschaert	Lloyd Davis, Sr.

2. Public Comment

3. Opening Items

A. Approval of the Written Agenda for February 22, 2021

*Recommended Motion: Move to approve the written agenda for February 22, 2021.*

B. Approval of the December 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

*Recommended Motion: Move to approve the meeting minutes for December 28, 2020.*

4. Old Business

*None*

5. New Business

A. Selection of the 2021 Beautification Commission Chair person.

*Recommended Motion: Move to approve (member name) as the 2021 Beautification Commission Chair Person.*

B. Keep Rock Island Beautiful representative will provide information about their organization's various programs.

C. Approval of the Commission adopting responsibility for Keep Rock Island Beautiful's programming

*Recommended Motion: Move that the Commission adopt responsibility for Keep Rock Island Beautiful's programming.*

6. Other Business

*None*

7. Adjournment

*Recommended Motion: Move to adjourn.*

## Memorandum

### Community and Economic Development Department

**To:** Beautification Commission  
**Subject:** Keep Rock Island Beautiful  
**Date:** February 22, 2021



Keep Rock Island Beautiful is a local non-profit group founded in 1985 as a “grassroots organization dedicated to encouraging citizens, businesses, and organizations to share responsibility for keeping a healthy, safe, and beautiful city.” An affiliate of the national non-profit organization Keep America Beautiful, they have undertaken a wide range of different activities to beautify the community. These activities have included educational programming, engaging in the Adopt-A-Highway initiative, and organizing neighborhood clean ups. Sadly, in recent years membership in the group has decreased and the leadership has struggled to keep the group going. As a result, the difficult decision has been made to dissolve the organization. The City Manager, the Community & Economic Development Department, and the leadership of Keep Rock Island Beautiful do not want the work they do to stop, however. Their contributions to the community are too significant to do without.

Since 1965 when it was first established, the duty of the Beautification Commission has been to “plan for the future beautification of the City and help coordinate programs which are now taking place and shall also encourage private individuals to participate and assist in the beautification of the City.” Given that, staff are proposing that the Commission adopt responsibility for the programming previously managed by Keep Rock Island Beautiful. That programming perfectly aligns with the purpose of the Commission. Additionally, the City has in the past contributed funds to that organization and, if the Commission were to take on this responsibility, it would become the steward of those same funds.

Staff emphasizes that Commission members would need to commit to volunteering additional time and effort in order to make this successful. It would not only involve additional meetings, but also additional work. Staff do not have the time to be solely responsible for planning events, advertising them, recruiting volunteers, and then taking part in said events. There would be an expectation that Commission members would put in that time and effort. Staff, as always, can play a supporting role but cannot play a leading one. In other words, a lot of teamwork would be needed to get things done.

Finally, as an aside, if the Commission votes to adopt responsibility for this programming, it should be aware that a cleanup event is normally organized in early spring. This would require planning to begin as early as March. If the Commission does not adopt responsibility, the event will likely not be able to take place for the first time in many years.

**Recommendation:** The Community and Economic Development Department recommends that the Beautification Commission adopt responsibility for the programming previously managed by Keep Rock Island Beautiful.

**Submitted by:** Kathryn Douglass, GIS Specialist  
Miles Brainard, Planning & Redevelopment Administrator