

Rock Island Beautification Commission Agenda

Rock Island City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

August 21, 2023

5:30 PM



1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - David VanLandegen
 - Todd Linscott
 - Emily Smith
 - Jane Tschappat
 - Wanda Lambert
 - Roy Plasschaert
 - Laurie Figley
 - Chris Conwell
 - Samantha Lonergan
2. Public Comment
3. Opening Items
 - A. Approval of the Written Agenda for August 21, 2023
Recommended Motion: Move to approve the written agenda for August 21, 2023.
 - B. Approval of the July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Recommended Motion: Move to approve the meeting minutes for July 17, 2023.
4. Old Business
 - None*
5. New Business
 - A. Review of the August Yard of the Month nominee slideshow
Recommended Motion: Move to approve the August 2023 Yard of the Month winner.
 - B. Review of the Tell On Your Neighbor nominee slideshow
Recommended Motion: Move to approve sending Certificates of Appreciation to the selected Tell On Your Neighbor nominees.
 - C. Discussion on the consolidation of the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission.
6. Other Business
 - None*
7. Adjournment
 - Recommended Motion: Move to adjourn.*

Rock Island Beautification Commission Minutes

Rock Island City Hall, Council Chambers, third floor
1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

July 17, 2023

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	David VanLandegen Roy Plasschaert Jane Tschappat Wanda Lambert Chris Conwell Samantha Lonergan Laurie Figley
Voting Members Absent	Emily Smith Todd Linscott
Staff Present	Kathryn Douglass
Guests	None

Call to Order and Roll Call

Temporary Chair Roy Plasschaert called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and read the roll call.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Samantha Lonergan moved to approve the agenda for July 17, 2023. Jane Tschappat seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0.

David VanLandegen arrived.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Roy Plasschaert moved to approve the minutes for June 19, 2023. Samantha Lonergan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Review of the June Yard of the Month sideshow

David VanLandegen moved to approve 2501 21st Avenue for the July 2023 Yard of the Month award. Roy Plasschaert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0.

Update on the 2023 Tell On Your Neighbor program media releases

Tanner Osing, the Planning and Zoning Manager did a live interview on WHBF about the Tell On Your Neighbor program, media releases were sent to the newspapers, and City staff posted information on the City's Facebook page and City Website.

Other Business

There was a discussion on logistics for the Sunset Park Cleanup on August 12th. The starting time will be 8:30am and run through 11:00am. The cleanup supply distribution location will be the gazebo along the lake, just north of the gas pump station. Kathy Douglass will print flyers and maps to be used for the cleanup.

Adjournment

Chair David VanLandegen asked for a motion to adjourn. Laurie Figley moved to adjourn. Samantha Lonergan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0 at 6:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathryn Douglass.

Memorandum

Community and Economic Development Department

To: Arts Commission and Beautification Commission

Subject: Commission Consolidation

Date: August 14, 2023



The City of Rock Island has had an Arts Commission (AC) and Beautification Commission (BC) for many years. Both bodies advise the City Council on activities and programs related to their subject areas. Specifically, the AC is responsible for overseeing the City's Arts Services Agreement with Quad City Arts and providing input on other arts activities. The BC recognizes and promotes the beautification of the City through different awards including Yard of the Month and Community Garden Certificates. Overall, the responsibilities of both groups are connected when considering their importance on placemaking and improving the quality of life for residents.

Staff has spent time reflecting on this connection and believe that consolidating the AC and BC would be beneficial for residents, commissioners, and staff. In short, a new Arts & Beautification Commission (ABC) would be a nine (9) member body that would assume the responsibilities of both commissions. Staff recognize that this commission would have different and distinct areas of expertise, but ultimately believe that melding is possible since both groups share a common goal in making Rock Island a better place to live.

Additionally, staff believe consolidation would ensure continued knowledge building and promote greater commission activity. The AC typically has regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year while the BC meets seasonally. A consolidated commission will result in more frequent meetings thus allowing for more learning opportunities and hopefully develop a community leadership pipeline for commissioners. Additionally, the Planning & Zoning Division is fully staffed for the first time in over four (4) years and consists of three (3) full-time staff members: Planning & Zoning Manager, Urban Planner, and GIS Specialist. Staff desire to get back to more frequent and proactive planning activities given this capacity, and believe that a consolidated commission will be a dynamic group for staff to work with as a partner.

Lastly, this memo along with a draft of the establishing ordinance will be presented to both the AC and BC. Staff hope to have a discussion with both bodies regarding the proposal and to include any feedback in a memo that will go to the City Council. Staff is also proposing that the consolidated commission go into effect after the first of the year in 2024. This will allow ample time to make new appointments and administratively prepare for the consolidation. The ordinance is expected to go before the City Council for consideration in September.

Submitted by: Kathryn Douglass, GIS Specialist
Tanner Osing, Planning & Zoning Manager

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF
THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS TO CONSOLIDATE THE ARTS
COMMISSION AND THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION INTO THE ARTS &
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND,
ILLINOIS:

Section One: The City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the community that the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission be combined into a single public body. This new body shall adopt all of the functions and responsibilities of the two bodies functioning in an advisory capacity.

Section Two: Chapter 14, Article IV “Arts Commission” is hereby removed and reserved.

Section Three: Chapter 11, Article III “Beautification Commission” is hereby removed and replaced in its entirety as follows.

Article 3: Arts & Beautification Commission

Sec. 11-51. Creation of Commission:

There is created an Arts & Beautification Commission to assist the City in the planning and development plan of arts and beautification programming as well as coordinate activities which encourage private individuals to invest in the same. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission members shall be broadly representative of the community with knowledge of the visual and performing arts, landscape architecture, horticulture, ecology, and the environment.

Sec. 11-52. Duties of Commission:

The Arts & Beautification Commission shall possess advisory powers unless otherwise delegated by the City Council. The Commission’s duties shall include:

- A. Soliciting community input on the arts and beautification programming;
- B. Advising the Mayor and City Council on matters to do with arts and beautification;
- C. Acting as a liaison between the City, agencies, associations, and residents relative to programs and activities;
- D. Making recommendations on the development of new programs and activities;
- E. Monitoring and evaluating programs and activities

Sec. 11-3. Officers:

The Commission shall have a Chair and a Vice chair elected by the Commission who shall each serve a term of one (1) year and shall be eligible for reelection.

The Chair shall preside over meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair. If both are absent, a temporary Chair shall be elected by those present. A staff liaison from the Community & Economic Development Department shall serve as Secretary to the Commission and be responsible for preparing and publishing agendas and meeting minutes.

Sec. 11-54. Meetings:

The Commission shall schedule regular meetings on a monthly basis. Meetings may be cancelled for lack of business. Additional meetings may be called when needed. All meetings shall be run in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order as well as all applicable local, state, and Federal codes.

Sec. 11-55. Terms of Appointment:

- A. The Commission members shall be divided into three (3) groups and initially appointed for terms of one (1), two (2), and three (3) years respectively. Thereafter, members shall be eligible to serve three (3) year terms. Members may serve two (2) consecutive terms (including the initial appointment term) before being required to take at least one (1) year off of the Commission. They may thereafter serve again.
- B. During the interval between appointments, any vacancy occurring on the Commission shall be filled by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. Each member chosen to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term being occupied.
- C. A member may be removed from the Commission, with or without cause, by a two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) majority vote of the Commission. Any member who does not attend at least two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) of the meetings in any twelve (12) month period (or, if not in office for the entire period, such portion of the period that the member was in office) shall be automatically deemed to have resigned from the Commission unless waived by the affirmative two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) majority vote of the Commission.

Secs. 11-56 through 11-70 reserved.

Section Four: The membership of both the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission, now dissolved, is hereby invited to seek appointment to the Arts & Beautification Commission.

Section Five: All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed insofar as they do so conflict. All references to either the "Arts Commission" or the "Beautification Commission" is hereby replaced with "Arts & Beautification Commission" wheresoever such references appear in City codes, ordinances, and regulations.

Section Six: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect beginning on January 1st 2024.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND

PASSED: _____

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK

DRAFT

Rock Island Arts Commission Discussion Summary

Rock Island City Hall, 3rd Floor Council Chambers

1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

August 16, 2023

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Brett Hitchcock Carolyn Krueger Jodie Kavensky Brandy Vandewalle Amber Williams Aubrey Barnes Meghan Hollister
Voting Members Absent	Pat Stolley
Staff Present	Kathryn Douglass Tanner Osing
Guests	Dave VanLandegen

Arts Commission and Beautification Commission Consolidation Discussion Summary

Tanner Osing told the Arts Commission members present that staff has prepared a memo about a proposal to consolidate the Arts and Beautification Commissions into one commission. The memo recognizes the different programs the two commissions oversee. The memo also speaks to the overlap of the commissions' focus on improving the quality of life for Rock Island residents. Staff feels it would be beneficial to bring the two commissions' knowledge bases under one house. The resulting one nine-member body would have expertise from both subject areas. This change is proposed to go into effect in January of 2024. This proposal would be submitted to both current commissions for feedback, which would be included when the proposal is presented to City Council for consideration. The two ordinances for each separate commission, would be dissolved and a new ordinance creating the new Arts and Beautification Commission would be added to the City code, if approved by the Council.

Jodie Kavensky asked staff to describe the programs and membership qualifications of the Beautification Commission. Kathy Douglass described the horticultural background and interests of the members. She then described the following programs: Yard of the Month, Tell On Your Neighbor, nominations for the Mayor's selection of the Commercial Award and Bob Towler Residential Award, Community Garden certificates, and the supplies maintained for Adopt-a-Street and other organized cleanups.

Jodi Kavensky asked "How much input does the Beautification Commission have on landscaping for City projects, or R.O.W. ? The answer from staff was that historically the commission has not had input, but this is something that staff would like to get their input on in the future.

Brett Hitchcock wanted to know if the new commission will have its own budget. Tanner Osing explained that the Arts Services Agreement has \$20,000.00 dedicated to it by City Council. The Arts Commission oversees the annual agreement through regular reporting by Quad City

Arts. The Arts Commission is also the recommending body for which services are included in it.

Aubrey Barnes asked Dave VanLandegen, Beautification Commission Chair, about his commission's demographic makeup. Aubrey voiced concerns that the combining of the commissions might dilute the importance of the different types of art programming, specifically art programming that is not visual. Although, he mentioned that he understood the reasoning behind combining the groups. Other commissioners commented that it is their concern as well. Kathy Douglass told the commission that the renovation of downtown will be an impactful opportunity that the membership of the new commission would be asked to participate in. There are suggestions that a pop-up stage and street musicians would be a part of the downtown plan. Tanner Osing suggested to address including other art programming in the City that that be part of the Arts Services Agreement and funding dedicated to it. He also mentioned that the redesign of Arts Alley will be coming to the commission for input and there would be an opportunity to discuss including performing arts in that space.

Brandy VanderWalle asked if other City commissions were going to be combined. Tanner Osing said that the different Inspection commissions were recently combined, and the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals were proposed to be combined.

Brandy VanderWalle suggested that the new commission have eleven members. Tanner Osing said staff is trying to be consistent with nine-member bodies for City commissions. Dave VanLandegen suggested that the commission consist of equal numbers of the two interest groups and one member with dual interests.

Meghan Hollister asked if the Beautification Commission was involved in Youth Community Garden programs. Tanner Osing said the City has a Community Garden Program which involves the leasing of vacant City Lots.

Jodie Kavensky talked about the wording "private individuals invest in the same". She would like this part of the ordinance revised. Jodie Kavensky and Amber Williams would like a City commitment to an event like a "Gallery Hop" which could include many forms of art. Carolyn said having a "Galley Hop" event was part of the public input gathered in meetings for previous Art Plans. Jodie Kavensky would like the ordinance revised to include the word "events" as well as activities.

Brett Hitchcock asked if the two commissions were voting on the combination. Tanner Osing said the combination of the two commissions will be voted on by City Council. The proposal and comments from the two commissions will be presented to City Council. Tanner Osing invited the members of the Arts Commission to the upcoming Beautification Commission meeting Monday, August 21st at 5:30PM, in the lower level conference room.

The commissioners agreed that input from both commissions input should be gathered and then brought back, along with a possible revised ordinance, for review by each commission at their September meetings. Tanner Osing said staff would consider doing so.

Summary of discussion submitted by Kathryn Douglass.