

Rock Island Arts Commission Minutes
 Rock Island City Council Chambers, third floor
 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 Meghan Hollister Aubrey Barnes
Voting Members Absent	Pat Stolley
Staff Present	Kathryn Douglass Tanner Osing
Guests	Beautification Commission Chair David VanLandegen

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Kavensky moved to approve the agenda for August 16, 2023. Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Kavensky moved to approve the minutes for June 21, 2023. Krueger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Discussion on the consolidation of the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission

Staff presented the proposal to consolidate the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into the Arts and Beautification Commission. Staff explained the different programs the two commissions oversee as well as their overlap on improving the quality of life for Rock Island residents. Staff explained that they believe it would be beneficial to bring the two commissions' knowledge bases under one house.

Kavensky asked staff to describe the various programs and membership qualifications of the Beautification Commission. Douglass described the following Beautification

commission 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.

Chair Hitchcock asked if the Beautification Commission had a budget. Osing responded negatively. Chair Hitchcock further asked about the benefit of consolidating if neither commission had a budget. Osing responded that there would be no budgetary benefit, but explained that the groups operate in an advisory capacity much like other boards and commissions. He also reiterated that the Arts Commission oversees the funds allocated to the Arts Services Agreement.

Barnes asked about the demographic make-up of the Beautification Commission. Douglass and Beautification Commission Chair VanLandegan explained the make-up. Barnes further voiced concerns that the combining of the commissions might dilute the importance on the different types of art, specifically art that is not visual. Staff highlighted some upcoming projects where the commission could work to include ideas for the performing arts. Other commissioners concurred with Barnes' sentiment noting that the value placed on the arts could be minimized.

Beautification Commission Chair Dave VanLandegen provided his thoughts on the consolidation. He told the commission that he thought it would be possible to bring the commissions together and that he understood the differences between them, but also recognizes that there is an overlap between the two.

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

Kavensky provided feedback on language in the ordinance and shared concerns over the line "private individuals invest in the same". Osing shared the reasoning behind the language, but noted the concerns.

Commissioners discussed the City having a "Gallery Hop" event noting that it could include many forms of art.

VandeWalle recognized that both commissioners are underutilized, but expressed concerns with representation and suggested that the new commission have eleven members. Osing said that 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

Staff invited the Arts Commission members to attend August 21st meeting of the Beautification Commission, at which they will be discussing the consolidation.

Commissioners agreed that input from both commissions input should be gathered and then brought back at the September meeting. Osing noted that he would confirm the timeline for the proposal and get back to the commission.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Chair Brett Hitchcock asked for a motion to adjourn. Kavensky moved to adjourn. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 7 to 0 at 6:29 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathryn Douglass.