

Rock Island Arts Commission Minutes
 Rock Island City Council Chambers, third floor
 1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
 September 20, 2023
 5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Carolyn Krueger Jodie Kavensky Brandy Vandewalle Amber Williams Meghan Hollister Aubrey Barnes
Voting Members Absent	Pat Stolley
Staff Present	Kathryn Douglass Tanner Osing
Guests	None

Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Krueger 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

Williams moved to approve the agenda for September 20, 2023. Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Kavensky moved to approve the minutes for August 16, 2023. Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Kavensky told the commission that the Norma Leah Girl Parts Sculpture Project is accepting artists to create torso pieces.

Other Business

Continued discussion on the consolidation of the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission. Staff clarified that it may take up to two council meetings before the consolidation is officially approved by City Council. The first reading for the consolidation will be on the September 25th agenda.

Osing pointed out that the wording on the ordinance was changed slightly to address previous concerns about the meaning of “encourage private individuals to invest”.

Hollister asked staff to summarize how the Beautification Commission felt about the consolidation when they discussed it. Osing told the commission that the Beautification Commission's discussion was generally positive. They were interested in how the combination would affect the current activities they perform, but were assured that these activities would continue to happen. They also had some of the same feelings about the shortness of timeline for the transition.

The discussion continued and many commissioners still had misgivings about the consolidation. They voiced concerns about:

- the underutilization of the Arts Commission members expertise,
- further diluting the many different forms of art with the focus being on only the visual arts,
- that the City should be facilitating the regrowth of the vibrant art community that existed ten years ago,
- art is an economic driver and more emphasis should be given to art and art related events, which the new commission will not have time to include with the addition of other beautification projects

Osing said whether or not consolidation happens he is committed to better utilize the commission to better support creatives in the City, and to work with the commissioners to identify different funding sources for different projects in the future. Douglass explained that the City now has previously vacant staff positions filled and will be able to provide more support to the commission. Osing told the commission that he is passionate about the City of Rock Island and is happy to work with the commissioners to achieve their goals.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Krueger asked for a motion to adjourn. Williams moved to adjourn. Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 6 to 0 at 6:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathryn Douglass.