

MINUTES
PRESERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 16, 2017
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Leigh Ayers, Robert Braun, Elizabeth DeLong, Margaret Morse, Sue Swords

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brent Bogen, John Daley, Daryl Empen, Paul Fessler

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Jeff Dismer, Diane Oestreich, Wendy Rowand

STAFF PRESENT: Ryan Berger, Miles Brainard

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeLong called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

AN ORDER APPROVING THE WRITTEN AGENDA

Ayers made a motion to approve the written agenda. Swords seconded the motion. **The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**

AN ORDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Braun made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19th meeting. Swords seconded the motion. **The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILDING

Berger said that representatives from Rock Island County had come to speak regarding the potential designation of the Rock Island County Courthouse as a Landmark. Bill Stengel, an attorney representing the County Building Commission, said that the County wanted the Landmark designation process to move slowly. The County intends to demolish the Courthouse and would like to discuss with the Commission the possibility of turning the site into a park containing historic monuments. The existing building, Stengel said, would pose a security threat in the opinion of the County Sheriff when it can no longer be secured by the County. It could not be repurposed when it is eventually vacated as a result. Stengel said that a site plan would be made available to the Commission as soon as possible. The Commission had no questions for Stengel or the other representatives present.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

A final draft of a new Historic Preservation Ordinance was delivered to the Commission. Berger summarized the main changes. Several questions regarding the final decision making on the designation of Landmarks and Locally Designated Historic Districts being made the responsibility of the City Council instead of the Commission were asked. Anderson, Braun, and Oestreich opposed this proposed change. Oestreich said that Commission members are better able to make historic preservation judgments than members of the City Council would be and that politics are extraneous to the process of determining whether something is historic. Ayers said that there should be a way to reach consensus between the views of the Commission and the views of the City Council regarding the proposed change. Other comments included the suggestion, made by Oestreich, that certain Section 106 Reviews be made available to the Commission for comment. Anderson said the Commission should be notified of when In-Kind Replacements are approved by staff. Members of the Commission were asked to review the final draft and submit final comments to Brainard.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Berger said that staff had entered and assessed the conditions of the commercial building at 2016 9th Avenue and the residential building at 1316 15th Street. Both are likely to be demolished without the City taking possession of them.

- Anderson said that the Certified Local Government Grant Program available through the State still had monies to disperse. Such monies, Anderson said, could be used to pay for an independent engineering or architectural study of the Rock Island County Courthouse. Anderson also said that the applicant who submitted the Landmark application for the Courthouse should have been present when the discussion about the need to improve the application took place.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair DeLong asked for a motion to adjourn. Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Swords seconded the motion. **The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by Miles Brainard.