

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office -- Department of Natural Resources
WebEx Virtual Meeting

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/pages/illinois-historic-sites-advisory-council.aspx>

June 25, 2021

Presiding: Meg Kindelin, Chair

Council Members Present:

Curtis Mann	Erica Ruggiero
Elizabeth Blasius	Jenny Barker-Devine
Erin Benson	Pam Hein
Christopher Stratton	Christopher Fye
Norm Moline	Michael Smith
Kayleigh Sharp	Kelly Purvis
Lisa Napoles	Elizabeth Blasius

Non-Voting Council Members Present:

Staff Members Present:

Andrew Heckenkamp	Carey Mayer
Amy Hathaway	Jon Pressley
Justin Smock	Carol Wallace
Rita Baker	Carol Dyson

Guests:

Pamela Lang	Chris Usler
Tim Scovic	Erin Ward
Jonathan Solomon	John Durbrow
Kevin Harrington	Rachel Leibowitz
Renee Snow	George Kisiel
Ronald Fuhr	Tom B
Anthony Pascente	Ward Miller
Ryan Ori	Carolyn Andrews
Whitney Rosen	Sharon Winterhalter
David Narefsky	S Lerner
George Sisk	Melissa Arrowsmith
Tim Ryan	Sara Hess
WBBM-TV News	Frank Butterfield
Emelyn Najera	Michele Racioppi
Harshitha Beere	Lisa DiChiera
Edward Torrez	Brian Carey
Jennifer Sandy	Elizabeth Merritt
Steve	Anne Sullivan
Katie McNamee	Steve Dell
Bonnie McDonald	Elizabeth Waytus
John Cramer	Jeanne Sylvester
Jay Koziarz	David Roeder

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M. Roll was taken.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Hathaway noted the copy of the minutes that was sent to council members had an error in the attendance, which she has corrected. Since there was a change in the minutes, a voice vote was necessary. Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Mann and seconded by Naples. Purvis abstained. Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Kindelin welcomed everyone to the council meeting and went over the procedures for the day. Kindelin announced that member Taylor Long has left his position with the Town of Normal and has resigned from IHSAC. Kindelin mentioned that he will be missed and thanked him for his service. Kindelin introduced Carey Mayer, the new division manager for the State Historic Preservation Office.

STAFF REPORT

Mayer summarized her professional and personal background and explained the organizational changes at the SHPO, which was in the process of being moved out of the Office of Realty and Capital Planning into a stand-alone office under the director of DNR. Meyer then gave the staff report of the SHPO.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

LISTINGS

Oakland Cemetery Historic District

Pamela Lang gave the presentation. Blasius asked whether any of the monuments or structures were damaged in the derecho that occurred last summer. Lang responded that there were and that the cemetery had established a fund to repair monuments. Ruggiero asked whether it would be possible to add examples of comparable cemeteries in Illinois. Hathaway said that should not be a problem.

Staff opinion (Hathaway) was positive.

Motion to recommend was made by Ruggiero and seconded by Barker-Devine.

Motion carried.

Fairview Sanatorium

Chris Usler gave the presentation. Purvis stated that she enjoyed reading the history Usler provided in the nomination and was pleased to see the variety in the nominations this time. Mann asked whether there were any private treatment facilities in McLean County that existed prior to this public facility? Usler answered not to his knowledge. Blasius commented that it was important to understand how architecture adapts to address national concerns. Blasius asked whether there was a plan to adaptively reuse the property. Usler replied that it was a potential historic tax credit project.

Staff opinion (Hathaway) was positive.

Motion to recommend was made by Hein and seconded by Purvis. Motion carried.

Pope Brace Company Building

Erin Ward gave the presentation. Ward mentioned that she did get comments from Norm Moline and will incorporate those in the nomination. Blasius asked whether

there was a plan to adaptively reuse the property. Ward replied that it was a historic tax credit project. Kindelin appreciated the ties to FDR that surfaced in the course of the Ward's research and the continuing support of the property from the Pope family.

Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive.

Motion to recommend was made by Moline and seconded by Mann. Motion carried.

Ravisloe Country Club

Tim Scovic gave the presentation. Ruggiero commented that Scovic provided more information in the presentation on events that occurred at the country club and would like to see that added to the nomination, and to add Entertainment & Recreation to the summary statement and conclusion. Ruggiero also asked if Scovic could elaborate on what aspects of the original design were not restored in the recent restorations. Kindelin commented that she also really enjoyed the nomination.

Staff opinion (Hathaway) was positive.

Motion to recommend was made by Stratton and seconded by Purvis. Motion carried.

State of Illinois Center (common name: James R. Thompson Center, JRTC)

Before the presentation began, Chair Kindelin announced that two council members had conflicts with the subject property and asked Blasius if she would like to make her statement for the record. Blasius recused herself from the presentation, discussion, and vote of the James R. Thompson Center due to her involvement in the preparation of the nomination. Blasius logged off of WebEx meeting. Chair Kindelin mentioned for the record that it was voluntary and that she also is voluntarily recusing herself as she is the president and sole owner of JLK Architects, which has a general architectural retainer for the Capital Development Board and have two open projects at the Thompson Center. She mentioned that she and Blasius will be logging off for the rest of the meeting and turned the proceedings over to Vice Chair Ruggiero.

Jonathan Solomon gave the presentation. John Durbrow, Kevin Harrington, and Rachel Leibowitz spoke on behalf of the nomination. Purvis asked Solomon about the previous determinations of eligibility and why the property was not nominated to the National Register before. Solomon said while he was unable to answer why the building was not nominated before, he and other organizations believe that the building is of exceptional importance. Ruggiero offered that the determinations of eligibility were made through regulatory which would not necessarily lead to a nomination. Ruggiero had several questions, the first regarding the classification of the building as purely Postmodern, the mention in a support letter of high-tech architectural style, and whether this may be a hybrid representation of styles popular at the time. Solomon stated that he and Blasius believed it was an outstanding representation of Postmodernism and the letters of support for the building are in concurrence. Solomon went on to discuss interpretations of Postmodernism. Ruggiero asked why the discussion of Jahn was included in the nomination when the building is not being nominated for its association with him. Solomon replied that this was the direction the SHPO had provided and at the time the nomination was submitted, Jahn was still alive, but they did not consider the argument for architecture to be less strong. Ruggiero said the nomination would only need a minor change because this is not being nominated for master architect. Ruggiero stated that the nomination did a good job of providing comparable postmodern properties and asked whether more could be added in the comparison of other government and civic buildings. Solomon Harold Washington Library and the Chicago Federal Center as examples of government buildings mentioned in the nomination and explained that the nomination argues that the Thompson Center broke out of the second Chicago School and helped usher in a period of Postmodern civic structures in the city. Ruggiero

responded that that was a good explanation and suggested to add to the introduction or heading that the comparable examples provided were of government and civic buildings and not just in the Postmodern style.

Napoles complimented Solomon on the nomination and the presentation. Barker-Devine asked since there were two competing views if anyone could explain the consequences of designation or not designating the building. Solomon replied that designation made the property eligible for tax credits for future owners but would not provide any protection. He assumed it would trigger Section 106 for the State who wants to sell it. Heckenkamp responded that the council was not to concern themselves with the future of a property and it's their role to review the nomination form to determine whether it meets the National Register criteria. National Register designation in and of itself is completely honorific.

Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was negative. Heckenkamp explained that the regulatory process was running concurrently with the National Register review. Central Management Services initiated consultation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as per the Illinois State Agency Resources Protection Act. Heckenkamp requested that IDNR's letter to CMS on May 28, 2021 and the resulting Memorandum of Agreement, which was provided to the council prior to the meeting, be accepted as the full staff opinion on the JRTC. Heckenkamp also noted that SHPO staff was unable to find a formal determination of eligibility for the JRTC as prescribed by the act.

Motion to recommend with additional contextual changes was made by Napoles and seconded by Hein.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M. NEXT MEETING: October 29th