



**REVISED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

APPROVED

DATE: August 6, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Kathryn Holliday, Laura O'Donnell, Dennis Roberts, Trent Shepard, Angela Urban, Andrew Weiss

MEMBERS EXCUSED: David Hays

STAFF PRESENT: Olivia Jovine, Director of Community Development Services; Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner; Adeline Evans, Planning Intern; Teri Andel, Administrative Assistant II; Darius White, City Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Phyllis Winters-Williams

A. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Chair Urban called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were none.

D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Garcia stated that staff had not received any communications.

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Phyllis Winters-Williams announced the Half-Century Club dinner that will be held on October 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church. There will be a program on Ricker, Altgeld Hall, and honoring of Michael Walker with the Urbana Park District.

F. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

G. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

H. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

I. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

J. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There were none reported.

K. STAFF REPORT

Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner, gave a staff report on the following:

- Marcus Ricci, Planner II, resigned from the City of Urbana. He now works for City of Bloomington in Illinois.
- New Staff - Darius White is the new City Administrator, and Olivia Jovine is the new Director of Community Development Services.

L. STUDY SESSION

CLG Grant for Website & Mapping

Chair Urban opened this item on the agenda. Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner, summarized the Historic Preservation website update and mapping. He introduced Adeline Evans, Planning Intern, who was hired specifically to work on website integration.

Ms. Evans presented her work on the website project. She showed the following on the proposed new website:

- 100 Most Significant Buildings – Updated and historic images AND architectural and historic descriptions
- Mapping of Local and National Historic Landmarks
- Podcasts and Related Ordinances
- Local Historic Districts
- History of Historic Preservation
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Graphics - colors adjusted to be accessible with ADA for color contrast and to make it easier for people to use on their phones when actively touring the sites.

- Using Phone, show the person's location as well as the location of each historic site

Mr. Shepard asked if the new website is live now. Ms. Evans said no, but she will notify the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) members when it goes live.

Mr. Shepard asked how many hours that she has worked on the project. She explained that throughout the school year, she worked part-time about five to ten hours a week with photography and other necessary projects. She added that she started with the City of Urbana in mid-June and works 34 hours per week. Mr. Shepard stated that it is evident that she has done a lot of work on this project.

Mr. Shepard asked if this work was done for school credit or is she paid through the grant. Ms. Holliday stated that Ms. Evans was paid from her University of Illinois budget.

Mr. Garcia noted that an email with a link to the new site would be disbursed to the HPC members soon and stated that Commissioner feedback would be appreciated on the website especially as it relates to accessibility and potential missing data. He stated that Ms. Evans' time on this project would be ending soon. The site will go live in approximately one month or so. Once Ms. Evans leaves, there will not be anyone to work on it.

Mr. Roberts talked about the brochures on the Royer Arts and Architectural District. He stated that it is not officially part of the HPC. He suggested that the HPC talk about adopting it as part of the overview of the Commission because it is another district that has significance in the community historically. Mr. Shepard stated that he believes they would need another category for it because it is neither a landmark or a district. Mr. Roberts pointed out that when it was first suggested in 2009, the Chair of the HPC at the time said it could not be mentioned as the Royer Arts and Architectural District because there was already a Royer District.

Mr. Roberts stated that it is a walking district in the downtown area. It is centered on Downtown Urbana to inspire community interest and tourism. There will not be any new buildings added to it; however, we can recognize buildings that exist.

He encouraged the HPC to talk about adding this as a topic for a Study Session in an upcoming meeting. Mr. Garcia stated that staff could include it on the new website, especially since it contains some great info.

Dr. Holliday noted that "district" is a legal term recognized through Certified Local Governments (CLGs). So, she thinks the use of "district" might be an issue. It would be advisable to discuss how to treat it in a study session. Mr. Roberts wondered if the Royer Arts and Architectural District would have to meet certain requirements to be accepted by the HPC as a project. Ms. Holliday said that anyone who is interested in landmarking a property needs to put the documentation together and bring it to the HPC.

Chair Urban expressed her appreciation of Ms. Evans work on this project and that she was mindful about accessibility and the ability for one to use it on their phone. She asked how the proposed new site would be linked to the City's website. How will people find the new site? Ms. Evans stated that there are definitely ways of interlinking the two sites.

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M. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Urban adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Garcia", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner and Zoning Administrator
Historic Preservation Commission Secretary