

Historic Preservation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 28th 2026 3 P.M.

Attendance: Board Members: Joi Cuartero-Austin, Jessica Ballard-Lawrence, Elizabeth Ann Blasius, Jacob Kane Friefeld, Devin Hunter, Jeff Nevins, Don Edwards-Patton, Sarah Watson, Robin Jones; **Illinois State Museum Staff:** Jennifer Edginton; **Illinois Department of Natural Resources Staff:** George Sisk. **Absent:** Christy DeLair

1. **Welcome**
 - a. Jeff Nevins started the meeting at 3:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. Jeff Nevins called the roll, and 8 of 10 members were present with the addition of George Sisk and Jennifer Edginton.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - a. Jeff Nevins shared Minutes via email and screen share
 - b. Don Patton Moved to approve the minutes with the necessary correction of his middle name.
 - c. Joi Cuartero-Austin Seconded the motion
 - d. Vote was conducted and all members voted to accept the Minutes from the previous meeting
 - e. Jacob Friefeld approved the minutes with the one correction.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Review of Board Responsibilities
 - i. Jeff Nevins spoke with George Sisk prior to the meeting where he was told on order to be in full compliance we will need to set some administrative rules
 - ii. Those administrative rules have a whole process too, including publishing them and a 45-day waiting period prior to some additional work that will need to be done.
 - iii. Jeff Nevins suggested that it be done over the next couple of meetings
 - iv. George Sisk went over the process of publishing the bylaws to include 1st and 2nd notices, both lasting 45 days. Pending the comments from the public, the whole process can take up to 100 plus days and usually does take more than the 100 days.
 - b. Function
 - i. The board shall adopt rules in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
 - ii. The board shall list and delist, create a list of specific designations, create designation definitions, and create property assessment criteria or change the listing designation or state historic sites.
 - iii. These actions shall be undertaken by administrative rule
 - iv. The listing, delisting, creation of listing designation the board shall consider, but not limited to the following:
 1. The budgetary impact on the full historic sites portfolio

2. If the action includes these stories of historically excluded and marginalized people
 3. The geographic balance of the portfolio
 4. Disability access
 5. Opportunity to coordinate with historic designation or federal funding access or opportunity
 6. Any other criteria set in administrative rule
- v. Advisement of methods of assistance, protection, conservation, and management of State Historic Sites, as such recommendations are available and approved through budgetary appropriations to implement
- c. Jacob Friefeld opened discussion on the bylaws
- i. Sarah Watson brought up the question of new bylaws since IDNR is on the bylaws not HPA.
 1. Jeff Nevins informed her that these are all new bylaws as it is a brand-new board.
 - ii. Sub-committees were brought up in the discussion as well as the open meeting act.
 1. Jeff Nevins brought up the option of sub-committees to handle specific parts of the function of this board.
 2. Jacob Friefeld noted that the board is going to need information on the sites and their stories that are being told and not being told in order to have a better understanding as to what site would potentially be recommended for delisting.
 3. Elizabeth Blasius noted that before we start discussion on subcommittees, we need to discuss the process and framework for the decisions to be made.
 - a. Jacob Friefeld stated that maybe the subcommittees would be able to come up with the process and framework to make the decision for recommendation of delisting.
 - b. Jeff Nevins suggested that they come up with a list of the information for each site that they would like to know.
 - c. Elizabeth Blasius noted that having access to the information that IDNR has on all the historic sites would help with getting to know the sites better.
 - d. Elizabeth Blasius suggested have a google folder for each region that includes the information the board is requesting.
 - e. Jeff Nevins noted that with the HPA dissolving and Historic Sites going to IDNR some of the information that the board is requesting may not be available.
 - f. Elizabeth Blasius noted that information from the site superintendents would be helpful for added information. Also having some idea of who would take of the sites if they are delisted.

- g. Jacob Friefeld suggested having the budgetary information would be helpful as some of the decisions are based off of that information.
- h. Devin Hunter suggested including the option to reinterpret some of the site as information becomes available
- i. Jacob Friefeld recommended looking at other states to see how they are doing the processes we are tryin to establish.

5. Public Comment

- a. No Comments were made

6. Adjournment

- a. Joi Cuartero-Austin motioned to adjourn the meeting
- b. Jacob Friefeld seconded the motion