

# City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

6:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

## Joliet Historic Preservation Commission

### *Commission Members*

*Quinn Adamowski*

*Brian Bessler*

*Mary Beth Gannon*

*Kevin Heinemann*

*Candace Johnson*

*Kailee Lowry*

*Sharon Merwin*

*Aaron Mikottis*

*Ken Spiegel*

*Sara Stovall*

*Steven Wright*

Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to [publiccomment@joliet.gov](mailto:publiccomment@joliet.gov).

## CALL TO ORDER

## DECLARATION OF QUORUM

**Present** Quinn Adamowski, Brian Bessler, Kevin Heinemann, Candace Johnson, Kailee Lowry, Sharon Merwin, Sara Stovall and Steven Wright

**Absent** Mary Beth Gannon, Ken Spiegel and Aaron Mikottis

Mr. Mikottis arrived to the meeting late.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Joliet Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes 2-26-25**

[TMP-8476](#)

Attachments: [JHPC 2-26-25 Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Sara Stovall, seconded by Brian Bessler, to approve Joliet Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes 2-26-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

**Abstain:** Heinemann

## CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

**Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Joliet Oral Histories Context Study Project**

[TMP-8479](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report C.L.G. Grant Agreement - Oral History Project.pdf](#)  
[CLG25002 Joliet Oral Histories FY25 Draft Grant Agreement.pdf](#)

Planner Jayne Bernhard explained the City received a grant from the State of Illinois' Certified Local Government (CLG) for the Joliet Oral Histories Context Study Project and read the staff report into the record. Ms. Merwin inquired if the agenda item required City Council approval. Ms. Bernhard responded yes.

A motion was made by Sharon Merwin, seconded by Brian Bessler, to approve Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Joliet Oral Histories Context Study Project. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Heinemann, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

**Programmatic Agreement between City of Joliet, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** [TMP-8482](#)

Programmatic Agreement between City of Joliet, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Attachments: [Programmatic Agreement Section 106.pdf](#)  
[Resolution Programmatic Agreement.pdf](#)

Ms. Bernhard provided an overview of the Programmatic Agreement between the City of Joliet, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Ms. Bernhard explained she served as the City's qualified staff, but the previous agreement expired. Ms. Bernhard described the review process for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding requests.

In response to Ms. Merwin's questions, Ms. Bernhard explained any CDBG funding required the review process and confirmed the Federally Recognized Tribes with Interests in Will County appendix was related to archaeology.

A motion was made by Sharon Merwin, seconded by Kailee Lowry, to approve Programmatic Agreement between City of Joliet, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Heinemann, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

**Joliet Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report for 2024** [TMP-8480](#)

Attachments: [Staff report JHPC 2024 Annual Report.pdf](#)  
[CLG-Annual-Update-City of Joliet 2024.pdf](#)

Ms. Bernhard read the staff report into the record, which included highlights of 2024 preservation initiatives. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

A motion was made by Sharon Merwin, seconded by Kailee Lowry, to approve Joliet Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report for 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Heinemann, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

### **Annual Historic Preservation Awards**

[TMP-8483](#)

**Attachments:** [Staff Report Annual Awards April 2025 Meeting.pdf](#)  
[900NorthRaynor-AnnualHP-AwardNomForm.pdf](#)  
[Annual Historic Preservation Award Nomination Form Patrick Haley Mansion.pdf](#)

Ms. Bernhard explained two nominations were submitted for the 2024 Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program, including 900 N. Raynor Avenue and 17 S. Center Street (Patrick Haley Mansion). Ms. Bernhard described the restoration and repairs of 900 N. Raynor Avenue.

Mr. Mikottis inquired if insurance paid for the restoration work at 900 N. Raynor Avenue. Ms. Bernhard responded yes.

Ms. Merwin discussed accidents at the corner of Ross Street and Raynor Avenue and highlighted the quality of the restoration work.

There was a discussion about notifying homeowners of the nomination.

Ms. Stovall commented on the 17 S. Center Street pictures and the quality of the restoration work.

A motion was made by Sharon Merwin, seconded by Sara Stovall, to approve Annual Historic Preservation Awards. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Heinemann, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

### **National Historic Preservation Month (May) Events and Activities**

[TMP-8481](#)

**Attachments:** [Staff Report National Historic Preservation Month \(May\) Events and Activities.pdf](#)

Ms. Bernhard explained May was National Historic Preservation Month and

described four programs, including Places Matter Facebook Campaign, Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program, Historic Preservation Presentation to City Council, and “Stone and Steeples” Architectural and History Tour.

Ms. Bernhard provided an overview of the tour’s participating locations and schedule. A discussion was held about other possible churches participating in the tour.

Ms. Bernhard described Joliet Area African American Historic Context Study events that would take place in the summer at Bicentennial Park. In response to Ms. Stovall’s question, Ms. Bernhard confirmed the steering committee would perform outreach work for the events and highlighted Julie Alexander.

Ms. Merwin highlighted Mr. Adamowski’s quote in the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s magazine about the Joliet Steel Mill Main Office Building. Ms. Bernhard responded to Mr. Mikottis’s inquiry about the stones at that property.

Mr. Heinemann inquired about St. Pat’s name change. Ms. Merwin described the merging of Catholic Churches within the Diocese of Joliet.

**STAFF REPORTS**

None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

In response to questions from Ms. Johnson and Mr. Mikottis, Ms. Bernhard provided updates on the Loughran Building and St. Mary’s redevelopments and described a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the former MyGrain Brewing Co. space at Joliet Union Station.

Ms. Johnson highlighted Hollice Childress and explained he was looking for partners for a series of historic restoration projects and documentary productions in major cities across the United States. Ms. Merwin spoke about a prior Historic Preservation Commissioner with the last name Childress and inquired if he was related to Hollice Childress.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Brian Bessler, seconded by Kailee Lowry, to approve adjournment. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Adamowski, Bessler, Heinemann, Johnson, Lowry, Merwin and Stovall

**Absent:** Gannon and Spiegel

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.