

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**SIoux FALLS VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**October 16, 2018**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Carnegie Town Hall 235 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street Sioux Falls SD**

(Staff Liaison: Russ Sorenson: 367-8888)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kellen Boice; Sandra Callies; Keith Lapour; Ivy Oland; Sandra Pay; James Zajicek;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Zach DeBoer - excused;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Vanessa Victor, Chad Hanisch, Zeke Hilmoe - Infrastructure Design Group; Jon Jacobson – Confluence; Russ Sorenson, Urban Planner & Staff Liaison

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER & QUORUM DETERMINATION**

Commission Chairperson, Ivy Oland, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**ITEM 2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, welcomed the Visual Arts Commissioners and guests.

**ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no public comments received. With no agenda changes mentioned, Commissioner James Zajicek, made a motion to approve the regular agenda. Commissioner Keith Lapour seconded the motion. The motion to approve the regular agenda was unanimously approved.

**ITEM 4. REVIEW & ACTION on the VAC's Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2018**

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, requested a motion to approve the September 18, 2018 regular session meeting minutes. Commissioner Kellen Boice made a motion to approve the September 18, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner James Zajicek seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September 18, 2018 regular meeting minutes passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5. PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

*(5-minute comment period per individual)*

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, asked if there was any person in attendance who wanted to come forward and speak on non-agenda items. There were no public comments expressed.

**ITEM 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, noted there was no unfinished business to address.

(over)

## ITEM 7. New Business

- A) 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation  
(Presenters: Vanessa Victor, Chad Hanisch, - Infrastructure Design Group; Jon Jacobson, Chad Kucker – Confluence; and Dena Knutson, Public Works Engineering);

Vanessa Victor, Infrastructure Design Group, introduced other consulting TEAM members to the Commission. Other TEAM members present: Chad Hanisch, and Zeke Hilmoe - Infrastructure Design Group; and Jon Jacobson – Confluence. Vanessa Victor referenced their Eighth Street Bridge document information submittal which includes original bridge plans; archeological report; 1970s bridge rehabilitation and street improvement plans; rehabilitation analysis, profile photographs, and proposed rehabilitation elements.

Vanessa Victor and Jon Jacobson, both summarized the rehabilitation project with a PowerPoint presentation.

Vanessa Victor explained the Eighth Street arch bridge was constructed in 1912 utilizing reinforced concrete in bridge construction. The current bridge is known to be a Luten arch and constructed by N.M. Stark and Company. Bridge rehabilitation and street improvements were conducted during the 1970s. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. A plaque on the corner of the bridge denotes it as being an “Engineering Masterpiece” at the time of its construction.

Recently, the structure has been showing deterioration associated with its age. In-depth bridge inspections and core and chemical analyses have been conducted to document deterioration and identify concerns.

Findings include bridge replacement (prestressed girder bridge with precast panels simulating an arch)—\$12.5M estimated cost.

Bridge rehabilitation is a viable option for extending the life of the Eighth Street arch. Two rehabilitation technique options are under consideration. One rehabilitation option involves concrete repairs and shotcrete—\$3.2M estimated cost. Rehabilitation option 2 includes concrete repairs and fiberglass-reinforced polymer (FRP) wrapping—\$4.1M estimated cost. Both rehabilitation options provide for a smooth, uniform finish and address the needed concrete repairs. Both options for rehabilitation will provide a design life of 75 years, which is today’s design standard. Precast panels can be encased on the sides of the bridge. Rehabilitation will provide a savings of nearly \$9M in initial construction costs.

Vanessa Victor described the proposed improvements that have been presented for public input. Proposed improvements relate to:

roadway visioning concept options – (3) options:

*Option 1 - includes no parking on the bridge; maintaining a center turn lane on the bridge; curb line to be moved in to create wider pedestrian walks on both sides of the bridge;*

*Option 2 – includes parallel parking only on the south side of the bridge; maintains a center turn lane on the bridge; north curb line is adjusted to create wider pedestrian walk on the north side only;*

*Option 3 – includes center turn lane is eliminated; parallel parking is allowed on both sides of the bridge; curb line is moved in to create wider pedestrian walks on both side of the bridge; parallel parking barrier separates pedestrians from traffic; (NOTE: This option was favored by the public attending September 2018 meeting);*

*Surfacing changes to the bridge and roadway were explained, along with a presentation of proposed bridge renderings provided.*

architectural repairs – maintain existing arch, rehabilitation aesthetics - concrete repairs and shotcrete to be uniform finish and color;

pier nosing repairs – removal of pier cap and replaced;

spandrel wall repairs – removal of concrete to a specified depth, installation of precast concrete side panels;

railing improvements – replace railing with precast balustrades and precast top cap (non-exposed aggregate), railing height to be 4 inches taller;

lighting – to be done in a historical sensitive way with new LED lighting on both sides to illuminate walking surfaces and the historic elements and beauty of the bridge; and

river bridge aesthetics and connectivity to the river greenway - public access on the west side of the bridge is to be improved to better accommodate pedestrians with wheelchairs and infant strollers, etc., and deter motor vehicles from the river greenway with incorporation of possible bollards, ornamental fencing panels, and lighting. The Design TEAM is seeking public input and ideas to improve safe pedestrian access from the bridge down to the river greenway.

Vanessa Victor mentioned the Design TEAM has also been working with SculptureWalk regarding the Arc of Dreams project (a stainless steel arc to be erected across the Big Sioux River, between Cherapa Place on the east bank and Raven on the west bank) to provide river bridge viewing platforms and interpretive signage along the north side of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge of the river and Arc.

Vanessa Victor explained the next steps in the process. Such steps include: monitoring the conditions of the bridge to ensure public safety; continuing with design to highlight historical elements of the bridge and capitalize on modern construction techniques; conducting community outreach including seeking input on aesthetics of the rehabilitated area from the public and various citizen boards including Board of Historic Preservation, Visual Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, and Downtown Sioux Falls, etc.

Vanessa Victor mentioned the Board of Historic Preservation requested they have another opportunity at a future Board meeting to receive a project update and to review the project design. A November Public Meeting about the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project is planned. At this time meeting details are being determined. Construction is tentatively scheduled for bid package release in 2019 and construction in 2020. A portion of 8<sup>th</sup> Street on both ends of the bridge will be closed to stage construction equipment and materials on-site.

A Commissioner asked if considerations have been made about deterring possible homeless encampments under the bridge. Jon Jacobson replied the Design TEAM has made considerations to clean up the area under the bridge and replace existing exposed rock riprap with smoother surfacing; remove barriers and “hiding places”; add more lighting, improve overall access such that pedestrian usage increases; and work with Police to conduct frequent safety patrols.

Several Commissioners inquired that after 8th Street Bridge rehabilitation is completed, if further community activation can be stimulated and encouraged with new placemaking ideas and promoting public art integration opportunities involving public and private entities along 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the river frontage. Commission discussion ensued about the possibilities of launching such community activation activities - including current and planned building renovations, identification and creation of new outdoor “pop up” gathering spaces and niches, promotion and coordination of seasonal color lighting for the bridge along with the Arc of Dreams and the Falls landmarks, promotion of outdoor market(s) and recreation opportunities (ie: playground / fitness station activities), and festival type events, associated with the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

(over)

Jon Jacobson responded perhaps the allowance and activation of art integration and outdoor playground / fitness type activities may be considered, but that areas on and around the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge are somewhat limited. He mentioned that future discussion is needed for buy-in from adjacent bridge landowners and merchants, along with consideration for the appropriateness of a space or an event, as it relates to maintaining the historic significance of the bridge. Mr. Jacobson also commented the River Greenway - Phase 3 Improvements - would definitely increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic and usage, along the west river bank section, from Sioux Steel to Fawick Park locations.

It was also noted the 8<sup>th</sup> St Bridge arch design is important and a visible city element that has been incorporated in various city building designs, such as the existing Sioux Falls SF Arena roofline, Convention Center's east facade building windows and front canopy structure, and Falls Park Archway.

Commissioner Sandra Callies mentioned the importance of having graphic designer involvement in this bridge design process and inquired if such a person is on the TEAM. Jon Jacobson acknowledged that certified interpretive planners are indeed on TEAM.

There were no public comments received on this item.

Russ Sorenson, VAC Staff Liaison, commented the Design TEAM is looking for the VAC's endorsement for the 8th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

On behalf of the Visual Arts Commission (VAC), Ivy Oland, Chairperson, expressed the VAC's sincere appreciation to receive this project update and be provided an opportunity to review the Design TEAM's proposal for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation. She commented the Design TEAM has done very well to preserve the historic significance of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. She also emphasized the importance of providing: consistent bridge design features, and material color and texture and lighting elements that tie the bridge improvements into the existing and planned river greenway improvements, including the Arc of Dreams; connectivity between Downtown and Eastbank areas; and incorporating interpretive signage about the history of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

Chairperson, Ivy Oland, suggested incorporating appropriate and sensitive wayfinding signage to not only identify safe access points from the bridge roadway to Downtown features, but also direct pedestrians safely down to the river greenway, the Arc of Dreams, Falls, and across the river to the Eastbank business area.

The Design TEAM representatives thanked the VAC for acknowledging the historic and community significance of the 8th Street Bridge and providing input and community activation ideas to make the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project better. They invited the VAC to submit any additional comments by November 5<sup>th</sup>, through Russ Sorenson, VAC Staff Liaison.

B) Sioux Falls Arts Council Updates

(Presenter: Sandra Pay, - Sioux Falls Arts Council);

1) Cultural Plan Implementation;

Commissioner Sandra Pay, also a Sioux Falls Arts Council Board of Directors member, stated that she continues to brief the Arts Council Board about the VAC's efforts to develop a public art integration initiative and how the VAC's efforts effectively align with the Cultural Plan's Goal #6 - to enhance Sioux Falls public art and cultural facilities. Commissioner Sandra Pay mentioned the Arts Council Board is very supportive and enthusiastic about the VAC's efforts to implement Goal #6 of the adopted Cultural Plan.

2) Other?

Commissioner Sandra Pay provided a brief update to the Commissioners about the Sioux Falls Arts Council's upcoming 2018 fundraising efforts for their organization. Sandra Pay stated Mr. Jeff Holcomb has been selected to facilitate their fundraising.

**ITEM 8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ITEM 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A) NEXT VAC MEETINGS –

- Working Session Meeting – Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Downtown Library, 200 N Main Ave.
- Regular Meeting – Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 9:00 am, Carnegie Town Hall, 235 W 10th St.

B) Commissioner Sandra Callies, announced that she will be leaving the Visual Arts Commission and Sioux Falls as she has accepted an employment opportunity in Seattle, Washington. Commissioners expressed their sincere appreciation to Sandra for her community dedication and volunteer service to Sioux Falls and the VAC. Commissioners wished Sandra Callies all the best in her new career adventure. Thank YOU, Sandra!

**ITEM 10. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the Commissioners adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:11 a.m.

HANDOUTS – October 16, 2018 Meeting

- o October 16, 2018 Agenda
- o Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
- o 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation