

ILLINOIS NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office -- Department of Natural Resources
WebEx Meeting, June 26, 2026

Presiding: Rachel Barnhart, Chair

Council Members Present:

Victoria Granacki, Vice-Chair	Sarah Harken	Kelsey Kuehn
Brian Mitchell	Norm Moline	Dale Simpson
Lauren Thompson		

Council Members Absent: Charlie Pipal

Non-Voting Council Members Present:

Jenn Edginton	Christina Shutt
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Staff Members Present:

Andrew Heckenkamp	Rita Baker	Carey Mayer
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Guests:

Linda Rae Bressler	John Cramer	Amy Lloyd Dart
Anney Grish	Emily Ramsey	Lara Ramsey
Erica Ruggiero		

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHAIR REPORT Barnhart apologized for the legal limbo that held up her being at the February meeting. This is her first time to chair a board, but she comes with a Section 106 review background. She was excited to discuss the seven nominations. Barnhart also reminded the audience that to talk in today's meeting you were required to reach out to Andrew three days prior to today.

STAFF REPORT

Mayer gave the staff report and talked about the weather and how the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) headquarter building experienced damage during the last big storm and that the Old State Capitol is storing things whose previous room had roof damage. She shared that the budget for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been approved and that SHPO is working on historic preservation

grants. Mayer explained that the housing bill, that was not historic preservation friendly, did not pass. She reminded the Board that Amy Hathaway retired in November, and her former position has been posted and has closed and IDNR's human resources office is currently reviewing the applicants.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the February 27, 2026, meeting were approved as submitted.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES LISTINGS

Chicago Courtyard Apartments (MPDF), Chicago, Cook County

John Cramer gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. There was an inquiry about options to purchase condos versus co-ops, adding different subtypes and what qualified some courtyard buildings in the 250 of the 800 surveyed and what did not and the store front on ground floors with first floor and no stores. Another inquiry was asked regarding if it could also be nominated under Criterion B. There was a concern about doors and windows and whether open balconies and in-fill of balconies were contributing or a mark against eligibility. There was a comment about adding information on the subjective feeling of too many alterations having been made to a building to make it not meet the requirements, which would help developers and readers of the nomination. Also, it was asked if features such as landscaping, gates, fountains and railings should be included. Several board members commented on really enjoying reading the nomination. Motion to recommend was made by Granacki and seconded by Thompson. Motion carried.

Washington Manor Apartments, Chicago, Cook County

John Cramer gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. There was an inquiry about which features meet the registration requirements. Motion to recommend was made by Granacki and seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.

5401-5415 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Cook County

John Cramer gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. There was a request for a conclusion on how it meets integrity assessment. There was a conversation of wanting to know if architect Steinborn built any courtyard apartment buildings after World War II. Motion to recommend was made by Thompson and seconded by Kuehn. Motion carried.

Bowen High School, Chicago, Cook County

Lara Ramsey gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. It was asked if the school was currently occupied. It was shared that it is currently utilized as a school and that there are no plans to redevelop the site. There was a request to change the South Chicago reference to Southwest Chicago. A conversation took place on other edits to the nomination. There were comments that it was an interesting nomination and some mentioned being more familiar with the NRHP listed twin building, Schurz High School. Motion to recommend was made by Moline and seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.

George Stickney House (amendment), Bull Valley, McHenry County

Erica Ruggiero gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. There were comments that the photos in the nomination were fascinating. A few board members thought Stickney needed to be credited as the designer. There was a thought that it was very cool and there was an appreciation of the deep dive. He was pleased that the community saw value in the building. Motion to recommend was made by Granacki and seconded by Kuehn. Motion carried.

Mitchell dropped out in the middle of this presentation, no more votes from him.

Schilling Building, South Holland, Cook County

Anney Grish gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. There was a conversation about the windows and doors and concerns that there had been too many serious alterations for Criterion C. Motion to recommend was made by Thompson and seconded by Moline. Motion carried.

Casa Bonita Apartments, Chicago, Cook County

Linda Rae Bressler and Amy Lloyd Dart gave the presentation. Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. A discussion began that many thought it was an exceptional building, but the level of detail expected was not found. There was a request made for more exterior photos of the buildings' side and rear facades. A conversation took place on whether the nomination should be deferred, come in under the courtyard MPD or proceed with major edits. Several Board members offered to send edit comments and reach out with persons who could assist. Motion to defer was made by Barnhart and seconded by Granacki. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM.

NEXT MEETING: In-person, October 23, 2026