



Whitewater Landmarks Commission Minutes

Thursday, June 2, 2016 – 6:00 PM
Municipal Building, City Manager's Conference Room, 2nd Floor
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Present: Patricia Blackmer, Kori Oberle, Suzanne Haselow, Daniel Richardson,
Ken Kienbaum, Richard Helmick
Absent: Patrick Singer
Staff present: Alan Lockett
Guests: Charlotte Troutman (almost a first grader)
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Haselow/Oberle to approve the agenda as posted.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Richardson, Kienbaum, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2016
There were two spelling corrections. MSC Oberle/Richardson approve as corrected.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Richardson, Kienbaum, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, July 7, 2016 - 6:00 PM
The next meeting of the Landmarks Commission will occur on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- Hear Citizen Comments: No formal Landmarks Commission Action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Commission discusses that particular item
There were no citizen comments.

Reports

- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve (Helmick/Oberle)

- On Sunday, May 16, the WEMP was promoted at a Man Mound program outside of Baraboo WI. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.
- There will be a free, informational program presented by the Friends of the Effigy Mounds on Monday, July 13, 2016 in the community room at the city library from 6:30 – 7:45 PM. There will be a brief business meeting followed by the program entitled “Effigy Mounds, Fact or Fiction” presented by Dr. George Christiansen, Director of the Center for Wisconsin Archaeology.
- Birge Fountain Report (Lockett)
Lockett is looking into a new lighting system. The lower basin needs to be repaired. It will be lined with a rubberized sheet using a two part epoxy for adherence. Oberle will research funding and outdoor metal water fountain conservators by the Birge Fountain Committee’s fall meeting, and will draft specs for professional assessment, triage restoration tasks, and a cyclical preventive maintenance plan.
- Wisconsin Historical Society Webinar: Landmark Ordinances (Oberle)
The webinar was cancelled and may be rescheduled at a later date.
- Report on action regarding tile project (Blackmer)
As yet, there has been no information forwarded by the city attorney. Blackmer has sent an email to Taylor McDarison informing her that the Commission will not go forward with the project and to expect further communication from the city attorney.
- Report on Whitewater Historic Homes Photo Project (Richardson)
This will be an ongoing project most likely lasting through the summer and into the fall.

Unfinished Business

- Budget items to share and approximate dollar cost
Conservative estimates at this time were projected and discussed. Capital items will be a separate request from annual expenses. Discussion ensued regarding the private funding of selected, capital projects. It was suggested that a separate committee be appointed to determine the cost of digitizing and reframing the Pescheret paintings held by the city. Lockett will talk with the city manager regarding the budget. Specific, budget categories and estimated amounts are:

Convention fees (two conferences).....	1500.00
Mailings and postage.....	50.00
Professional dues (to maintain CLG status).....	40.00
Speaker fees.....	500.00
Receptions.....	150.00
Office supplies.....	50.00
Library display (annual event).....	100.00
Advertising/publicity.....	200.00
- Mounds Preserve signage project update (Oberle/Kienbaum)
The boulders have been gathered together at Kienbaum Excavation. Oberle will be calling Chuck Nass for permission to place the boulders at the Preserve. Once placed, the plaques will be installed. It was suggested that this would be an opportunity for some good publicity for the city and the Preserve. The possibility of reaching out to the Ho Chunk Nation for attendance was discussed.
- Research of/naming of/possible plaque information for Brickyard Park (Kienbaum)

Kienbaum will be continuing to research information through the Whitewater Public Library.

- Repair of Interactive City Map on web site
A new intern has been hired by the city to assist in GIS mapping. Luckett will be working with the intern to make the map totally interactive and functioning. An update will be provided at the next Commission meeting.
- Potential Public History Intern from UW-Whitewater Update
There is no report. The professor is out of state until fall semester begins. The item will be brought back to the Commission at its September meeting.
- Advertising Costs/ *Good Morning Advertiser*
Oberle reported that GMA would print 2 columns by 3 inches for \$68.40 and 2 columns by 6 inches for \$136.80. She suggested that a public service announcement / press release in the papers would be a cheaper way to promote projects. Another idea is to find a sponsor for projects to help defray printing costs. Discussion ensued. Haselow will come back at the next meeting with a proposal regarding her suggested project to promote local Landmarks.
- Addition of recent Local Landmarks to brochure(s)
The City Armory and the Starin Water Tower need to be added to the brochure with informational blurbs. Richardson will compose the information on each one and get it to Luckett. Luckett then will add the photos and information to the brochure.
- Digital/audio recording of meeting minutes
There will be at least one meeting each year that will be video recorded.

New Business

- Restoration of Landmark Plaques (Main Street Historic District)
Luckett reported that the plaques are in need of cleaning. Discussion ensued and it was decided that both maintenance cleaning, such as removing bird feces, and deep cleaning, such as removing tarnish from metal surfaces, is needed. Luckett will arrange light cleaning of Hamilton House plaque and Kienbaum will research to find the best procedure and products for deep cleaning.
- Tagging City-owned historic property
Haselow distributed examples of informational labels that could be attached to city-owned historic property. She suggested that property be labeled in order to avoid accidental misplacement or loss. Not all property would need to be labeled. Large, heavy outdoor pieces that are difficult to move would not need the labels. Smaller, more portable pieces would need them. Concern was raised over possible damage to the property by affixing the label. Oberle suggested the Commission see what type of labeling/cataloging, if any, the city uses in other areas and then determine if it would be applicable to the Commission's needs. Blackmer will contact the city clerk to find out.
- Possible construction cases for the original zinc Birge Fountain cherubs
It was reported that Chuck Nass has volunteered to have his staff build the cases over the coming winter. They will look similar to the present case housing the Maid of the Mist.
- Individual Commission members action plan for July
Oberle – contact Chuck Nass to establish a date to place signage boulders at the Preserve; have plaques ready for attachment.
Kienbaum – continue research on the Brickyard; research appropriate cleaning materials for the plaques designating city landmarks along Main Street.

Richardson – continue with the photo project; compose informational blurbs on recent landmarks and give to Lockett.

Haselow – contact Matt Amundson for permission to conduct an after hours program at the Mounds Preserve.

Blackmer – contact the city clerk regarding labeling/cataloging city property; discuss with Singer possible city council action in response to proposed state legislation concerning the state’s burial law.

Lockett – fix the interactive map on the city web site; discuss budget items with the city administrator; add new information on city landmarks to the brochure.

- Sen. Loudenbeck’s Legislative Council Study Committee to revisit burial site preservation law
Blackmer called attention to upcoming plans to revise the State’s burial sites preservation law. This is of great concern in maintaining the integrity, cultural respect and significance of all burial mounds. Discussion ensued. Oberle stated that the focus is solely on privately-owned mounds, and not those owned by the public. Also, the Ho-Chunk Nation has representation on the Study Committee. Commissioners need to keep aware of the work of the pending legislation. Blackmer will talk with Singer regarding possible city council action. Lockett suggested that commissioners, as public individuals, could write letters of concerns to their legislatures.
- Full moon walk at Effigy Mounds Preserve
Haselow suggested Friday, September 17, from 8:00 – 10:00 PM. Lockett said that Matt Amundson, Parks Director, needs to be contacted for permission because the Preserve closes at sunset. Invitations should also be sent to property owners adjacent to the Preserve. Haselow will contact Amundson. Oberle suggested that the Friends of the Effigy Mounds might be able to assist with tour guides.
- Fundraising campaign for Pescheret Collection archival preservation/conservation
A subcommittee was established for this item. Members are Blackmer, Richardson, Lockett, and Oberle.
- Wisconsin Historical Society Preservation Conference: October 21/22, 2016
Any commissioner who would like to attend should contact Blackmer.

Future Agenda Items

- Octagon House construction project.
- In-service for city staff on procedures regarding landmarked properties per ordinance.

Good of the Order

Adjournment

Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Helmick, secretary