

CITY OF WHITEWATER

RESOLUTION NO. XX

A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING JURISDICTION OVER MAINTENANCE NEEDS FOR HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC PARKS AND FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater recognizes the importance of maintaining public parks and facilities for the recreation, cultural heritage, and overall well-being of its residents; and

WHEREAS, several properties under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department are also designated as Historic Local Landmarks, including:

1. Whitewater Passenger Depot
2. Birge Fountain
3. White Memorial Building
4. Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve
5. Armory
6. Starin Park Water Tower (Public Works in City Park)
7. Walton Oaks Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Code assigns the Landmarks Commission the responsibility of protecting, enhancing, and perpetuating historically significant sites and properties, focusing on preservation, education, and promotion of the city's cultural and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Board is charged with the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of public parks and recreational facilities, ensuring these spaces are maintained for public use and benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Parks and Recreation is responsible for managing, controlling, improving, and maintaining all public parks and recreational areas, including those of historical significance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Whitewater

1. **Jurisdictional Assignment:** The primary responsibility for the maintenance, improvement, and operational needs of public parks, including those with historical significance, shall reside with the Parks Board and the Director of Parks and Recreation. This jurisdiction ensures that maintenance is carried out efficiently and consistently with the city's recreational goals.
2. **Consultative Role of the Landmarks Commission:** The Landmarks Commission shall serve as a consultative body for maintenance decisions affecting historically significant sites within public parks. The Commission is encouraged to provide input on preservation matters to ensure that the city's cultural and historical heritage is respected and maintained.

3. **Coordination Mechanism:** A formal subcommittee is hereby established between the Parks Board, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Economic Development, and the Landmarks Commission to address instances where maintenance needs intersect with historical preservation. This cooperative relationship shall be guided by a spirit of mutual respect, with the Parks Board overseeing the coordination efforts. The subcommittee will consist of 1 Park Board Member, 1 Landmarks Commission Member, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Public Works, and the Director of Economic Development. Either the Park Board or the Landmarks Commission may initiate subcommittee meetings by submitting a written request to the Director of Parks and Recreation, detailing specific areas of concern or interest. All decisions will be made collaboratively, ensuring that both the preservation of the city's heritage and the upkeep of its parks are given due consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and that the Parks Board, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Landmarks Commission shall work together to implement this policy in a manner that serves the best interests of the City of Whitewater.

Approved and adopted this 3rd day of September, 2024.