



## Landmarks Agenda Item

Meeting Date: July 2, 2026

Agenda Item: Birge Fountain

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Llana Dostie, Zoning Specialist

### BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

At the previous Landmarks Commission meeting, Commission Member Artsmith requested that staff research potential grant opportunities that may be available to assist with restoration and preservation efforts for the Birge Fountain.

Staff reviewed grant programs administered through the Wisconsin Historical Society that are available to local governments. The current grant opportunities are limited to the following eligible activities:

- Surveys of historic communities or neighborhoods;
- Preparation of nominations of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places;
- Educational projects related to historic preservation, such as workshops, applications, and webinars;
- Development of historic preservation planning documents; and
- Hosting a Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training.

Unfortunately, none of these grant programs provide funding for the restoration, rehabilitation, repair, or preservation work that would be required for the Birge Fountain.

Staff also reviewed national historic preservation grant opportunities that are administered through State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). While these programs support a variety of historic preservation activities, funding opportunities are typically competitive, project-specific, and often focused on historic properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. At this time, staff has not identified a grant program through these sources that directly addresses the restoration needs of the Birge Fountain.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

As no applicable grant funding sources have been identified at this time, staff recommends that the Landmarks Commission pursue a community-based fundraising initiative to support the restoration and long-term preservation of the Birge Fountain.

### ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

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N/A

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