



## Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	September 3, 2024
Agenda Item:	Resolution of for Jurisdiction of City Landmarks
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Taylor Zeinert <a href="mailto:tzeinert@whitewater-wi.gov">tzeinert@whitewater-wi.gov</a> 262-473-0148

### BACKGROUND

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

Since taking on the role of staff support for the Landmarks Commission as part of my duties in Neighborhood Services, I have observed that several properties hold significance both as historic landmarks and as public parks. To effectively maintain these public spaces while preserving their cultural heritage, it is crucial to establish clear jurisdictional boundaries regarding which entity is responsible for specific aspects of these properties.

#### Properties with Overlapping Responsibilities:

The following properties fall under the jurisdiction of both the Landmarks Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department:

Whitewater Passenger Depot  
Birge Fountain  
White Memorial Building  
Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve  
Armory  
Starin Park Water Tower (located in a City Park but under Public Works care)  
Walton Oaks Park

Staff has met with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Kevin Boehm, to address this issue. As outlined in Kevin's memo, there is alignment on the need to clarify roles and responsibilities. Below is an overview of the proposed responsibilities for each party:

#### Landmarks Commission:

- Tasked with protecting, enhancing, and preserving historically significant sites and properties.
- Focuses on safeguarding the city's historical and cultural heritage, promoting civic awareness, and fostering education.
- The commission's role centers on preservation, education, and promotion, not the physical maintenance of these properties.

#### Parks Board:

- Responsible for acquiring, developing, maintaining, and operating public parks and recreational facilities.
  - Ensures that parks are maintained for public use and benefit.
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Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Manages, controls, improves, and maintains all public parks, including associated historical sites.
- Ensures that parks are equipped and maintained for various recreational activities.

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PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

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FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. **Primary Jurisdiction:** Assign primary jurisdiction to the Parks Board and Director of Parks and Recreation for general maintenance, improvement, and operational needs of public parks. This ensures that day-to-day and seasonal maintenance is managed efficiently.
2. **Consultative Role:** Designate the Landmarks Commission as a consultative body for maintenance decisions affecting historically significant sites within public parks. This would allow the commission to provide input on matters related to preservation without overriding the primary operational duties of the Parks Board and Director.
3. **Coordination Mechanism:**  
A formal subcommittee will be established under the Parks Board to facilitate collaboration between the Parks Board, Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Landmarks Commission. This subcommittee will address cases where maintenance needs and historical preservation concerns intersect, ensuring that both areas are properly managed with mutual respect and cooperation.

**Subcommittee Members:**

- 1 Park Board Member
- 1 Landmarks Commission Member
- Director of Parks and Recreation
- Director of Public Works
- Director of Economic Development

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ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

Proposed Resolution

Memo from Park and Recreation Director, Kevin Boehm