



## Landmarks Commission

Cravath Lakefront room 2nd floor 312 West  
Whitewater Str, Whitewater, WI, 53190 \*In Person  
and Virtual

**Wednesday, October 01, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

##### PRESENT

Council Representative Orin O.Smith  
Board Member Pat Blackmer  
Board Member Penelope Alwin arrived at 6:16 p.m.  
Board Member Kelsey Reilly  
Board Member Steven Sahyun

##### ABSENT

Board Member Jordan Reilly

##### STAFF

Llana Dostie, Neighborhood Services Administrative Assistant

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*A committee member can choose to remove an item from the agenda or rearrange its order; however, introducing new items to the agenda is not allowed. Any proposed changes require a motion, a second, and approval from the Committee to be implemented. The agenda shall be approved at each meeting even if no changes are being made at that meeting.*

Motion made by Council Representative O.Smith, Seconded by Board Member Sahyun.

Voting Yea: Council Representative O.Smith, Board Member Blackmer, Board Member Reilly, Board Member Sahyun

#### CONSENT AGENDA

*Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved together unless any committee member requests that an item be removed for individual consideration.*

1. Approval of September 3, 2025 Minutes.

Motion made by Council Representative O.Smith, Seconded by Board Member Blackmer. Voting Yea: Council Representative O.Smith, Board Member Blackmer, Board Member Reilly  
Voting Abstaining: Board Member Sahyun

**HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS**

*No formal Committee 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 Committee discusses that particular item.*

***To make a comment during this period, or during any agenda item: On a computer or handheld device, locate the controls on your computer to raise your hand. You may need to move your mouse to see these controls. On a traditional telephone, dial \*6 to unmute your phone and dial \*9 to raise your hand.***

None

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Dostie explained the oath of office had not been signed by the all members of the committee. The clerk requested that the oath be signed and returned to her.

**CONSIDERATIONS / DISCUSSIONS / REPORTS**

2. Update on the historical gardens that were found next to Effigy Mounds. **(Alwin)**

Blackmer stated that Alwin was supposed to get an update. Blackmer stated she will check when she sees Amy in two weeks.

Alwin stated that she has been emailing, calling, texting Amy since June with no response. She called Jason Kennedy the Director last week. He hopes he can poke her into some action.

Blackmer stated that she is the state archaeologist and is out in the field often.

3. Update on the transfer of the archivist bookcase from the armory to the Anderson Library. **(Smith)**

Orin stated that Kevin stated that he is double checking that they weren't also sent to the farm. Kevin reached out to the University to have someone come out and look at the bookshelves before they came over and no one from the University has arrived. We are going to try to contact them one more time. If not than that one last set of bookshelves will be brought back to the Landmarks Commission for consideration.

Blackmer asked about if there has been any discussion about putting them on the Wisconsin Auction site.

Smith stated that had not been discussed since that is already a recommendation that the committee has already been made and is sure is in process.

Blackmer asked if that would have to go to common council.

Smith stated wasn't sure, but would ask about that in future conversations.

4. Update on Anonymous Donation for Water Tower. **(Blackmer)**

Blackmer stated we hopefully will received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$10,000. Unfortunately at this point in time there needs to be proof that this individual

will in fact donate this amount so that the financial department is aware of it. Blackmer asked Smith if we could ask the City Attorney to draft a document so that the financial department and the common council would be aware that the donation is in fact available provided that the city council match the funds.

Smith stated that I believe that if something was binding it would alleviate the concerns of the finance department. Not sure all of the internal processes related to that.

Blackmer clarified the question was does the body as a committee of the City of Whitewater have the right to contact the City Attorney or does that need to go through Council.

Blackmer stated what she was asking to contact the City Attorney. Asked Dostie to get her in touch with City Attorney.

Dostie stated that she would get that request to those who need it.

Blackmer stated that ultimately we can't set up an account without having money to put it in.

Sayyun asked if the account would be set up through the Whitewater Community Foundation.

Blackmer confirmed that it would.

5. Discussion and possible action on concerns related to the Birge Fountain. (Blackmer)

Blackmer stated several years ago, it will be 10 in 2027. We had McKay Laboratories do an assessment of the Birge fountain. They felt that at the time they did it, they came up with a period of 10 years to do so. At this point and time there is some money available, we would not know how much money would need to be available. The estimate at that time of the assessment was for a full restoration of the fountain. The fountain appears to be fine from the exterior, it is rusting from the interior. The estimated cost at that time was \$125,000 for a complete restoration. The fountain would need to be dismantled and shipped to Ohio if they did the work. 2027 is not that far away. There is nothing in the budget for the fountain. Until we dismantle the fountain we don't know how much money would be needed. There is some issues with the water flow at this time, there is a difference between the Maid of the mist and the water flow that is on the basin of the fountain.

6. Discussion and possible action related to Bassett House 100th Celebration of WFWC Ownership and America 250 Celebration. (Blackmer)

Blackmer stated that the Whitewater Women's Federation the house bequeathed it to the Federations in 1926. the house was built in 1857. Florence Bassett did bequeath it to the Whitewater Women's Clubs. It will be in their ownership for 100 years in 2026. 2026 is also the date for the America 250. They want to combine a celebration and get it out there. As the Bassett House is a local landmark we need to show support for this.

Blackmer stated that this will not need a motion since this will be organized by the Women's Federation.

7. Discussion and possible action related to Community Education. (Blackmer)

Blackmer stated that she has recently spoken to Discover Whitewater and Fairhaven Community Center. She did a presentation about the Starin Park Water Tower to try and remediate all the false information that is traveling around Whitewater surrounding the Water Tower.

Basically we do a library presentation which is currently not available to use. It will be again in 2026. It would be nice to have a display at the library during the month of May, when it is historic preservation month.

Smith stated that the university library does display on a monthly basis. We could also reach out about partnering with a campus department or student organization to host a presentation as a campus event.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding approaching Lambda Chi Alpha regarding Landmarking their building.

Blackmer stated that it happens to be a home that was built by Nelson Salisbury and he built this particular house in 1874. It is the fraternity house on North Street. Not sure if they would be interested in landmarking, they may be a national corporation.

Salisbury built three houses in Whitewater and this is the house he built for himself. It is in relatively good shape and it is unaltered. It would be a nice significant landmark in addition to the one that is immediately next door to it that has already been landmarked.

Alwin stated yes to approach.

Smith stated that he knows the president of Lambda Chi this year and also the director of student activities that runs Greek Life on campus. He can coordinate setting up a meeting.

9. Discussion and possible action for approval of clear coat on Prairie Tiller Mural.  
**(Blackmer)**

Blackmer stated that she drove by the mural and there was scaffolding around and it and people using paint brushes on it. It is a local landmark and she was concerned that they hadn't contact the landmarks commission to say what they were doing. She did call the director of the Whitewater Arts Alliance, Kim Adams and asked her what was going on. Kim stated they were applying a preservation clear coat on the mural. To cover what they have done we needed to add to the agenda. We would have certainly given them permission, however they didn't follow protocol. They stated they contact the City, however the city doesn't own the mural.

Alwin asked if it was the one on the wall.

Blackmer confirmed that it is the one on the wall of Studio 84.

Sahyun asked if they maybe they had contacted the Public Arts commission.

Blackmer stated that this is a Landmark property. I think this was an oversight on their part. They should have contact Landmark.

Sahyun asked if there was a plaque there or anything to denote this was a local landmark.

Blackmer stated it is on the Landmarks Commission website. The City knows that this is a landmark.

Alwin asked if we a marker could be put up.

Blackmer stated that they used to put a plaques on landmarks; however, if you put a plaque on it you change the facade from when it was landmarked.

**Motion Carried**

Motion made by Board Member Sahyun, Seconded by Board Member Blackmer.

Voting Yea: Council Representative O.Smith, Board Member Blackmer, Board Member Reilly, Board Member Sahyun

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Status of the Mounds

Community Education efforts

Lambda Chi Landmarking

Bookcases

Birge Fountain

Water Tower

Oath of Office

Oath

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

A quorum of the Common Council may be present. This notice is given to inform the public that no formal action will be taken at this meeting.

**Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the Office of the City Manager / City Clerk (262-473-0102) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.**