



Landmarks Commission

Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, City Manager's Conference Room

2nd floor, City Hall

312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Present: Patricia Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Kenny Kienbaum, Dan Richardson, Richard Helmick
Absent: Jimmy Schulgit, Ricky Blucher
Staff present: Chris Munz-Pritchard
Others present: None
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Richardson/Kienbaum to approve the agenda as posted.
Ayes: Blackmer, Haselow, Kienbaum, Richardson, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of the Minutes of April 4, 2019
MSC Kienbaum/Richardson to approve the minutes of April 4, 2019 as presented.
Ayes: Blackmer, Haselow, Kienbaum, Richardson, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Set date of next meeting – June 6, 2019
The next scheduled meeting of the Landmarks Commission will be held on June 6, 2019 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

- Effigy Mounds Preserve (Helmick/Blackmer)

Blackmer talked with Streets Superintendent Kelly Freeman. A partial burn was begun on the west side of the Preserve but had to be discontinued due to weather conditions. A thorough burn will not be completed this Spring. There has been no progress made on repairing damaged mounds due to fallen trees or the removal of the fallen trees and branches. The State of WI has not advised the city on removal procedures within the cataloged area of the Preserve. The state had the wrong email address for the city contact.

Richardson suggested that there is a possibility that a LIDAR survey could be done to better establish a buffer zone around the mounds.

He also suggested that the Walworth Co surveyor could be a possible resource. Munz-Pritchard volunteered to investigate further.

Haselow reported that a citizen complained safety issues at the Preserve does not make it a good place for children.

- Birge Fountain Committee (Blackmer)

Jim Allen has contacted Blackmer regarding a possible meeting of the Committee. Blackmer discussed with Allen the rust on the cherubs and questioned what happened with the McKay report. Allen reported that the committee has already discussed the report and it would not be fair to bring it up again. Blackmer noted that there is a time line of restoration activities written in the report. She questioned possible proactive steps to follow the time line. At present, there has been no meeting scheduled. Blackmer said the rust on the cherubs needs to be remediated and the Birge Fountain Committee revisit the practice of covering the fountain during the winter as suggested by the conservator. Helmick suggested that a list of questions be prepared and sent to the Birge Fountain Committee. Richardson and Helmick will prepare a list for consideration at the next Landmarks meeting.

- Report on Possible Signage for corner of Jefferson and Starin Rd. (Kienbaum/Munz-Pritchard)

Munz-Pritchard reported that the Parks Board has approved designed and is now looking for a vendor to manufacture it. Grouping this sign with others that the city is creating will reduce manufacturing costs.

Unfinished Business

- Brochure reprint update (Richardson)

Richardson will be meeting tomorrow (Friday, May 3) with Tom Foll at the city library. Money for printing of the brochure is being provided by the Whitewater Tourism Council. The new brochure will follow a similar style/format as the old brochure. Munz-Pritchard suggested that a downloadable copy be placed on the Whitewater Historical Society web site as well as the Landmark Commission's site. Richardson will present this idea at the next meeting of the Whitewater Historical Society.

- Ordinance to increase fines to National/State Register and Local Landmark structures (publicity)
Information on the increased fines was printed in the Janesville Gazette, the Whitewater Register, and the Jefferson County Union. It is hoped that this information will be shared with incoming, UWW students during their Fall orientation.
- Heritage Day Tour sponsored by the Landmarks Commission/Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs Update (Blackmer)
The committee is progressing well. The date of the Tour will be June 23, 2019, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Additionally, there will be a one day, pop-up exhibit of Whitewater artists at the Whitewater Art Center along with a silent auction, an ice cream social and a food truck rally.
- Main Street Historic District Banner Project and media advisory
The banners have been placed on the light poles. Blackmer thanked Street Superintendent Kelley and his crew for their work. A press release on the banners was sent to the local papers.
- Proclamations for May's Historic Preservation month and Archeological Month
Munz-Pritchard has contacted the city manager and has been assured that the proclamations will be read at the next city council meeting. Blackmer asked Munz-Pritchard to receive the proclamations on behalf of the Landmarks Commission as well as deliver the Landmark Commission's Annual Report to the city.
- Display cases at library for May/June for historic preservation month
Articles to put in the display case have been placed. This year, the focus is on the Historic District. Several photos of Landmarked properties within the district have been placed in the case with notification of the Heritage Day Tour event.
- Request for installation of security system for the George Esterly House/Delta Zeta Sorority
The Sorority is still investigating systems. More information will be available at the June 6 Landmarks meeting.

New Business

- Weinberg family request regarding plaque at Cravath Lake Front Park
The Weinberg Family originally owned the land that is now the park. They questioned what had happened with the plaque that indicated the family owned the land and then sold it to the city. Munz-Pritchard reported that Carol Cartwright from the Historical

Society had contacted her regarding information about the plaque. The Landmarks Commission has no information about it. Munz-Pritchard will do more research.

- Annual Landmark Commission Report to City Council
Blackmer passed out the report for 2018. She will email it to the council. Munz-Pritchard will present it to the City Council at its May 7 meeting.
- Annual Landmark Commission Letter to owners of Local Landmarks
Blackmer has written the letters (25 in all). Munz-Pritchard will mail them out.
- Possible display table at the WI State Historical Preservation Conference in October, 2019
Blackmer suggested that the Landmarks Commission have a table at the conference to present Whitewater Landmarks to the conference attendees. Commissioners agreed. Discussion ensued regarding costs to attend the conference. This would be positive PR for city. Whitewater and Lake Geneva are the only communities in Walworth County that hold CLG status.
- William and Mary Fricker House
When information on the Fricker House was presented, Haselow said this was not the house she was discussing at the last Landmarks meeting. Haselow said that the person who contacted her could not be more specific about its location or description.
- Suggested sites/structures to be designated as Local Landmarks
No sites/structures were suggested. Items that may need further research are
 - Wonders of Walworth County
 - Hall Family Circus
 - Sears House

Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted
R. Helmick, secretary