

AGENDA

Whitewater Landmarks Commission

Thursday, August 7, 2014 – 6 PM

City Manager's Conference Room

312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2014
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, September 4, 2014 - 6:00 PM
- 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.

Reports

- Friends of the Mounds (Helmick)
- Historical Society (Marshall)
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve and Maintenance (Helmick)

Unfinished Business

- Plaques for Landmarks (Popke)
- Budget – Present budget \$1600
- Tile Project Proposal (Taylor McDarison)

New Business

- Old Stone Mill Dam – Why removed without talking to Landmarks Commission for approval.

Future Agenda Items

Good of the Order

Adjournment

Minutes
Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Thursday, June 5, 2014 – 6 PM
City Manager’s Conference Room
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Chairperson Kienbaum called the meeting to order at 6:05.
Present: Ken Kienbaum, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Sarah Bergants, Richard Helmick
Absent: None
Staff present: None
Guests: Pat Blackmer, Roberta Taylor
- Approval of Agenda
MSC The agenda was approved as posted. Marshall/Bergants MSC to approve as posted.
- Approval of Minutes – May 1, 2014
MSC Berants/Haselow to approve as posted. The minutes of May 1, 2014 were approved as posted.
Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Alan Marshal, Carol Christ, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Sarah Bergants, Richard Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, August 7, 2014 - 6:00 PM
The next meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the city manager’s conference room. Note: There will be no July meeting due to the holiday.
- 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

- Friends of the Mounds (Helmick)
 - There has been some animal digging near one of the oval mounds. Matt Amundson, Parks Director and supervisor of maintenance at the EMP, has been notified of the damage.
 - The prairie flowers planted at the entrance sign are, for the most part, doing well. As expected, there has been some winter die off. It is hoped that funds can be found to replace those plants that have died. Various citizens have stated that better, more informative signage would be appreciated.
 - Karen Cobourn, Chair of the UFC, is interested in supporting more maintenance at the EMP. She is interested in having a meeting with FOTEM, Landmarks, Park & Rec., and other interested parties to exchange information.
- Historical Society (Marshall)
 - Hours that it will be opened will be Fridays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, and Thursdays, during the city’s activities at Cravath Lake.

- On July 5, there will be a program presented by Jukius Birge's great granddaughter. She will read a selection from his book at the fountain. To support this presentation, the Historical Society will have an exhibit on Julius Birge's life.
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)
 - The two students who stole the arrows from the cherubs have been caught. The arrows have been recovered. When the arrows are put back, they will be wielded to the cherub to try and prevent any future theft.
 - Additionally, a new camera will be installed with a direct feed to the police department.
 - New filters will be installed on the upper basin to help keep the nozzles there from clogging.
 - The fountain will be drained this fall in order to do some repainting.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve and Maintenance (Helmick)
 - There is no report.
- Report on Display at Library for Historical/Archeological month (Helmick)
 - Librarians have said that the information on our area effigy mounds was well received by visitors. The display was present for the all of May and was removed this past Monday.

Unfinished Business

- Consideration of Water Tower for Landmark status
 - Haselow has been doing research on the water tower. She and Allan Lutke will continue to try and learn when the tower was built and by who.
- Consideration of Armory for Landmark Service
 - Helmick is in the process of completing the application form to present to the commission.
- Plaques for Landmarks (Popke)
 - Popke met with Dr. Terry Frame, a professor at UW-Whitewater. She and a few of her students are interested in touring the landmarks to see where the plaques might be posted. They also need whatever information will be needed to be placed on the plaque. It was suggested that at some point the property owners are notified and asked for their input. Dr. Frame's students intend to try and meet the individual ascetic of each property. Initial estimate for the completed, 12 plaques plus installation is in the range of \$2,000 - \$5,000. Dr. Frame would expect that material costs be paid up front with the remainder of the costs paid at the completion of all the plaques.
- Consideration of requesting items from residents of Jefferson and Walworth Counties to display at the local historical museum (Whitewater Train Depot).
 - The historical society does accept items from outside the city limits. There are two ways of accepting these items: as a short term loan or as a permanent gift. The historical society does not request items. These items are offered to the society on a voluntary basis.
- Whitewater Historical Society's response to City Landmarks Commission in regard to Historically Significant Personal Property
 - The society is only interested in items significant to the history of Whitewater.
- Budget for next year
 - Lutke will put together a sample budget we may wish to use.
 - Kienbaum will talk with the city manager to see what possible funds could be made available.

New Business

- First English Lutheran Church preservation of chimney and bell tower – needs tuck pointing (Marshall)

- The church is considering removing the chimney. MSC Haselow/Bergants to remove the east chimney and do any associated repairs. The motion passed with Marshall abstaining. Marshall will notify the church. Bergants will make sure that the city is informed of the commission's decision to expedite the permit process.

Future Agenda Items

- Budget
- Plaques

Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

Kienbaum adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Helmick, Secretary, Whitewater Landmarks Commission

DRAFT

Tile Project Proposal

General Description of Proposal

The Whitewater Historical Landmarks Commission sought the help of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in finding an artist that would make tiles to be installed on the registered homes of historical whitewater. These tiles are to be hand-built by a student (Taylor McDarison) of the College of Arts and Communication. Each tile will be researched and designed to fit the aesthetic architectural style of the buildings [a.k.a. Italianate-Style, Queen Ann-Style] and utilize text to declare the name of the home and the year it was constructed. Although it will be taken via a case-by-case basis where the tiles will be displayed on the homes, most will be wall hung in their installation on either brick or wood after the consent of the home owner. This proposal, however, only covers the creation of the tiles, and not the installation process.

Background for Project/Inspiration

To be written by Suzanne Popke/The Commission...

Overall Project Process/Timetable

If approved by the city of whitewater, they shall become the sponsor to the project and through an independent study for Spring 2015 under Professor Teri Frame through UW-Whitewater, the workspace and mentorship will be provided to the student for the project and for college credit.

The student will create 13 individualized tiles for the following homes, taking into consideration the following information listed below:

- Smith-Allen House, (445 W. Center Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1856
 - Italian Villa-Style
 - Famous Resident: Teacher's College President Robert William
- Engebretsen-Dorr House, (622 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1895
 - Queen Ann-Style
 - Famous Resident: Edward Engebretsen, first treasurer and second mayor of Whitewater. Dorr, his son-in-law, was head of Electric Company
 - First house to be wired for electricity in whitewater
 - Now the Victoria on Main Bed and Breakfast
- Newton M. Littlejohn House, (429 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1859
 - Italianate-Style
 - Famous Resident: Newton M. Littlejohn, Whitewater's first village president
 - Used to be used as a parish house for Sunday school
- George W. Esterly House, (604 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1876

- Late Italianate-Style
- Famous Resident: Frank Hyer, President of Teacher's College.
- Esterly Carriage House, (122 N. Esterly Av., Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1885
 - Remodeled in 1919 to add interior rooms for Easton Johnson
 - Late Italianate Style until Remodeled, where Sunroom and Entryway were added with a Colonial Revival Style.
 - Once the carriage house to the G. W. Esterly home
- Nelson Salisbury House, (404 W. North Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1874
 - Italianate-Style
 - Famous Resident: Nelson Salisbury, who after coming to whitewater as a steersmen on the Delaware and Hudson canal, became a farmer, banker, and home builder.
- F.J. Starin Mansion, (131 N. Fremont Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1856
 - Style???
 - Famous Resident: Fredreick Starin, Civil engineer and land speculator
 - Used to be used for student housing
 - Restored by Dan and Jean Sable, now referred to sometimes as "Sable House"
 - Now an drug and alcohol rehab clinic
- Lyman Wight Octagon House, (127 N. Newcomb Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1862
 - Octagon Style???, innovative architecturally for the time
 - Famous Resident: Lyman Wright, inventor at Esterly Reaper Works
- I.J. Starin House, (507 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1860
 - Greek Revival-Style
 - 1920's it was remodeled into a restaurant.
 - Now the site of Mercy Whitewater Medical Clinic
 - Nicknamed "Green Shutters"
- Bassett House, (708 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1857:1878
 - Italianate-Style
 - Now the home of the Federation of Women's Club
- Hamilton House, (328 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1868
 - Second Empire-Style with Queen Ann Style alterations (1881 and 1887)
 - Part of the Underground Railroad

- Famous Resident: John Belushi when it used to be a frat house
- Now the Hamilton Bed and Breakfast
- Sanger Marsh House, (522 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built in 1861
 - Early Italianate-Style
 - Built by Nelson Salisbury
- Kiernan-Yasko House, (136 S. Whiton Street, Whitewater, WI, 53190)
 - Built circa 1887-1882
 - Style??

Additional Sites may include the Whitewater Passenger Depot, The First United Methodist Church, White Memorial Building (The Cultural Arts Center), The Landmark Hotel, and the Preserve.

With clay purchased for the project, the student will set to work on the 13 tiles, given one semester (four months) to complete all of them from and needed testing the starting date of the 2015 Spring Semester. The prior Winterim will be used for sketch designs and non-ceramic maquette. One month will be given for this first step completion. At the end of Winterim, the student shall present sketches, designs, and maquette and receive first payment of \$300.

These tiles will each be hand built, using various carving tools the student will provide. They will be hand rolled and modified without any text. Room will be left for text. After these tiles are bisque fired, layer glazed, and glaze fired, the text will be burned into the glaze with a laser printer housed at the Whitewater Maker's Space.

Things to keep in mind by the commission:

- Do you want the tiles to be grouted?
- Does the back of the tiles need anything in particular for installation?
- What theme do you want tiles to have? Strictly historic restorative look or symbolically designed to the history of each house. Example: For the Basset house, the tile could look very Italianate in nature and appear as a tile that would have been there all that time ago, or it could be designed to mimic Italianate style tile with a flare of imagery that would speak to the Federation of Women's club that meets there.
- General Scale of the Tiles?
- General Text Expectations? Fancy Text, Simple Text, etc.? Should the tiles be numbered for any particular reason?
- Should the tiles align with any particular tourist information? Example: online, houses are numbered throughout the district as certain numbers, and those numbers would align with what the student could provide on the tiles.

The Student will be given a stipend for their labor. After factoring labor costs, for the duration of the four months the student should be provided \$3000 for the

project. \$300 will be paid to the student after presenting designs, testing data, and sketches. One month in January will be given for this part of the process. Upon approval of the tile designs by the Whitewater Historic Landmark Commission, the student will be provided a \$1350 sum in advance. The student will then run freeze-thaw tests and glazing tests to make sure that their chosen material will be able to endure outdoor conditions. An Indian Ink test will also be performed. After all relevant data is collected on the optimum outside material for the tiles, they will be created through the spring semester. Upon completion of the project, the rest of the promised amount, \$1350 will then be paid to the student once they hand over the tiles to the commission. The commission will receive the tiles no later than May 20th, 2015.

How This Will Benefit Whitewater

Whitewater's history has always played a very strong and proud part of the local community. Not only does history continue to bring culture to Whitewater, but Whitewater also has an innovative attitude towards the arts as well. One of the historic buildings is even in operation as a Cultural Arts Center. This project will fuse these two very strong values of the community together.

Through this project the community may also nurture the bond between the university and the local community. This project will require many people and departments to work together, and this communication the project stimulates is highly valuable. The Whitewater Landmarks Commission, The Whitewater Makers Space, the Department of Art and Design, and The College of Art and Communication will all be involved and communicating. At the end, the historic homes will also have artistic tiles to hang at the discretion of the homeowners, who in turn give the final say on installation and assume all responsibilities for said installation process.

Finally, with the product of the tiles created and installed, it will make the history of each house that much more evident, and educate viewers all at once. Although some houses have basic metal plaques outside with the name and date of creation, these tiles will provide uniformity for the houses (as not all houses have the metal plaque) and integrate themselves more closely to the architectural styles of each house. They expound upon what the metal plaques have already begun. Between the two, the full history of the house can be displayed.

Materials List

- Nice Rolling Pin \$10
- Rubber Mallet \$10
- Corn Starch \$10
- Roll of Duck Tape \$6
- Grout Line Maker Tool \$2
- Pristinely Flat Wooden Board \$50
- Shaping Tools/Spray Bottle (I will provide)
- Sand Paper of Three tooth Grades \$10
- Laser cutter (provided by Makers Space) \$37.50 for Makers Space Membership
- Rubber Rib Tools \$40

- Independent Course Lab Fee: \$100
 - Covers Kiln Access
 - Clay Cost
 - Glaze Material Cost
 - Various workspace and tools
 - Plastic
 - Wooden Boards
 - Plaster
 - Putty Knife

Budget

- Total Material Cost: \$280
 - Student Stipend: \$3000
- ~ Total Budget: \$3280 (without installation costs)