

City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2016 – 6:00 PM

**Municipal Building, City Manager's Conference Room, 2nd Floor
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Blackmer. Members Present: Helmick, Oberle, Kienbaum, Blackmer, Richardson, Haselow, and City Staff Member Michele Smith. Members Absent: Council Representative Singer.

Approval of Agenda. Moved by Helmick and seconded by Richardson to approve agenda as presented. Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes. August 4, 2016 minutes were approved as presented.

Citizen Comments: None.

Landmarks Inservice. Inservice to be rescheduled since Neighborhood Services Director Munz-Pritchard was unexpectedly called out of office.

REPORTS

WHITEWATER EFFIGY MOUNDS. (Helmick/Oberle). Kori Oberle expressed concern about the entrance to the Mounds, and the fact that the tail of the panther is being walked on. Also, the walking path/trail seems to “move” every time the property is mowed. The paths are traveling into the cataloged area and cutting into the mounds. It was agreed that until all thirteen mounds are surveyed, it would be premature to try to relocate the entrance and redesign the walking path. Once documentation is obtained, installation of a more permanent path can be investigated. It was also noted that there is some difference of opinion as to where the panther mound tail begins and ends.

BIRGE FOUNTAIN REPORT. (Kienbaum). Kienbaum reported that the repairs made to the fountain are not satisfactory as it looks like a swimming pool has been placed inside the fountain. Kienbaum noted that after repairs, hairline cracks have appeared on the north and south sides of the fountain. Kienbaum also noted there are a couple other cracks that are not quite as bad. His concern is that eventually water will go through the cracks. Oberle indicated that the fountain is not currently leaking, but the repairs are a band aid. Oberle suggested a conservator be consulted. Kienbaum believes the fountain must be covered for the winter months to prevent the cast iron from rusting. Although the lighting was changed, Kienbaum has concerns about the wiring and the potential for someone to be injured. Kienbaum is attempting to reach Chuck Nass to discuss wiring concerns with him. Blackmer noted that the fountain is to be repainted once it is closed for the season. Kienbaum was asked to keep the Commission up to date on matters related to the fountain.

WHITEWATER HISTORIC HOMES PROJECT (Richardson). Dan Richardson continues to photograph Whitewater's historic homes and landmarks in the City, as well as their architecturally significant features. Some photographs will have to be taken after leaves have fallen and an opportunity to photograph the properties while unobstructed occurs.

FULL MOON WALK AT EFFIGY MOUNDS PRESERVE. (Haselow/Blackmer). Tour guides were selected for the September 17th Full Moon Walk at the Mounds. Distribution of advertising material will occur within a few days, and neighbors are to be sent invitations to attend the tour.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOUNDS PRESERVE SIGNAGE PROJECT UPDATE. (Oberle/Kienbaum). Oberle presented samples of signage styles to be mounted on the boulders being donated by the Kienbaum family. Recommendations were made by the Committee as to which style was preferred.

ACQUISITION OF GIS/LIDAR BY WALWORTH COUNTY. (Dan Richardson). Dan indicated that Walworth County now has LIDAR mapping. Special software requiring licensing, or possibly some freeware (limited use in our instance) is needed. Dale Drayna of Walworth County indicated he will attempt to create a map of the area to see whether other Mounds exist, but Drayna did indicate he is not proficient in this area. Drayna also recommended contacting UWW GIS Department to see whether they would be interested in taking on the project, and use the LIDAR data to help in the search.

BRICKYARD PARK. (Kienbaum). Kori Oberle has completed research as to whether the Brickyard Park area (Jefferson Street and Starin Rd.) could have been considered a major industrial area. If so, consideration of installation of a plaque indicating such could occur. Much discussion regarding the research occurred, and it was noted that there are some uncertainties as to boundaries at the moment. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Director should be contacted to determine the status of the property (whether it officially is park land). It was moved by Kienbaum and seconded by Oberle to pursue the nomination of the site of the Whitewater Brick and Tile area at the north end of Jefferson Street as a local landmark site. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Research will continue to determine boundaries.

INTERACTIVE CITY MAP ON WEB PAGE. City staff member Michele Smith agreed to speak to the City's GIS Department to see whether a universally interactive map can be developed for use on the City's webpage. The version currently on the webpage, but developed by a private company, has resulted in electronic loading problems for numerous viewers.

OCTAGON HOUSE GARAGE ADDITION UPDATE. Chairperson Blackmer reported that the shed has been placed in the rear of the property. The roof matches the dwelling and the scroll work is on the shed. The older shed is to be torn down.

LANDMARKS INTRODUCTION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. Suzanne Haselow recommended that a project where students color pictures of Landmark homes be introduced to the elementary schools for the purpose of educating local children on the City's local Landmarks. Several display possibilities were discussed. Haselow will go to The Sweet Spot Coffee Shop to see whether they would be willing to display the pictures and to determine a good time period for a display.

LOCAL LANDMARKS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION. (Helmick/Blackmer). The Commission recommended that several properties might be considered for Landmark status, and that property owners could be contacted to see whether they are interested in having their property designated. In addition, Walton Oaks Park off of Bloomingfield consists of a collection of ancient oak trees, which are more of an oak woodland that is recognized unofficially by people who are knowledgeable about oak woodlands.

SURVEY GRANT FOR EFFIGY MOUNDS PROPERTY. (Oberle). Kori Oberle has been working on a grant application for a fully funded, no-matching funds grant to supply funding for a survey of the Effigy Mounds. Oberle is in contact with City Manager Clapper.

LANDMARKS BROCHURE. (Richardson). Kori Oberle had some edits for the brochures Landmarks additions. They will be provided at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSION MEMBERS ACTION PLANS:

Kienbaum: Research brick yard; continue to keep informed on the Birge Fountain; and arrange for boulder delivery to the Effigy Mounds.

Oberle: Continue working on Effigy Mounds survey grant.

Smith: Investigate possibility of the City creating an interactive Landmarks map, and obtain additional information regarding status of parkland at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Starin Road.

Haselow: Distribute copies of Full Moon Walk notices.

Richardson: Continue work on photo project; continue discussions with Dale Drayna of Walworth Co.

Blackmer: CLG status; Assist with grant; continue to work on local Landmarks; continue to investigate the possibility of designating Walton Oaks Park as a Landmark.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Oberle will report on meetings numbered 2 and 3 of the Burial Sites Preservation; The Landmarks Inservice meeting will be rescheduled.

ADJURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Secretary.