

Birge Fountain Committee
Minutes, March 11, 2009
White Memorial Building – Downstairs

Present: Roy Nosek, Linda Loomer (Landmarks Appointee), Rod Dalee, Russ Fero, and Alan Lockett.

Also in attendance: Gregory Brulla, metal artist/worker.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes from October 8, 2008 were approved. Motion to approve was made by Alan Lockett, and 2nd Russ Fero. All were in favor.

Roy Nosek reported a concern over the fountain base and basin needing to be repainted. Roy gave a recap on the paint history from the recasting to the current.

Gregory Brulla talked about the oxidization of the statues. Gregory called it Bronze Disease. Rod Dalee mentioned that the chlorine may be the cause. Rod suggested better filtration.

Roy Nosek suggested that the flesh features of the statue be restored to the original bronze.

Gregory said that the patina that was done through Incolac was a surface paint and not a true patina.

Roy reported that Chuck Nass said that the city will do an acid wash before spring activation. He said that Chuck reported that Nelson Equipment Painting from Evansville quoted sandblasting and repainting the fountain for \$6,000.

Gregory thought that the rust was minimal and could be spot cleaned.

Roy suggested postponing painting the fountain.

Rod thought there was a better acid wash that could be used.

The committee agreed to spot paint the fountain after it is cleaned and to seek other painting quotes.

Gregory said that bronze metal has many possible patinas. He said that acid washing can affect the patina. He said that bronze patina can be top coated with a wax to preserve it longer. Gregory said he would research water concerns regarding chlorine and salt. He will see if there are other alternatives.

Gregory will give the committee a bid on cleaning and redoing the patina of the bronze.

Motion was made to have the city remove the mineral deposits through best way possible and spot rust removal with paint touch-up. Made by Russ, 2nd by Linda. All in favor.

Rod Dalee said he would look into a Polyphosphate cleaner. It will soften up mineral deposits for easier cleaning. This could be attached after the re-circulating pump.

Roy said there is a filter around the fountain pump but not under it. He said he would check with Chuck to see if it was needed underneath.

Russ made a motion to invest improvements in the filtration system, either pre or post in nature, in consultation with Rod Dalee for suggestions, for implementation this spring. 2nd by Roy.

No financial report. Pat Stork wasn't present.

Roy will report this meeting to Chuck through Email regarding the filtration.

Next meeting was scheduled for Fall 2009.

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:32 p.m. by Linda and 2nd by Russ. All were in favor.

R. Alan Lockett, Secretary