

WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION

July 1, 2009

Chair, Mariann Scott called to order the monthly meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission at 5:10 P.M. at Indian Mounds Park.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Patrick Singer, Kimberly Krebs, Linda Loomer, Kathleen Haas Lashley, and Carol Christ. Rick Daniels was absent. Guests – John Broihahn, State Archaeologist, Matt Amundsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, Prue Negley, Park Board, Lynn Binnie, City Council, Nancy Dade & Bob Stone.

Approval of Agenda

It was unanimously agreed to postpone items IV, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIII until the August meeting.

Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

The next meeting date is set for August 5, 2009, at 5 P.M in the City Manager's Conference Room at the Whitewater Municipal Building.

Whitewater Effigy Mounds

Mariann introduced State Archaeologist, John Broihahn. John gave some background on the current state of the mounds. The boundaries were surveyed in 1989 and 20 acres were designated in 1974 as Indian Mounds Park, owned by the city of Whitewater. In 2006, an additional 5 acres were purchased and annexed from the Town of Whitewater. In 1991, the mounds were listed on National Historic Register. Under Wisconsin statutes, they are burial mounds and protected as a cemetery. Under the burial law there is a 5 – 15 foot area surrounding each mound edge that needs to remain undisturbed. The mounds are an archaeological preserve* and as such are designated a special use area. The park can be managed as intensely as desired with the caution that the surface characteristics of each mound should not be disturbed.

After John's initial presentation, the group toured the site and John took pictures and answered questions. He gave the following recommendations:

- There needs to be better signage designating the park as an archaeological preserve as well as a sacred place.
- Access road needs to be moved as it crosses over one of the mounds.
- If restored to prairie, the natural state is an oak savannah.
- Be cautious of disturbing the ground between the mounds as there may be burials below the surface.
- Re-establish fence and property lines to obey state burial law.
- Either make paths crushed limestone and allow prairie grass to grow on mounds OR
- Mow mounds and keep paths in a more natural state.
- Educational usage is definitely a way to preserve and protect the mounds (school tours, history geocachers, 4th grade curriculum, etc).
- Develop a plan to put the mounds on a tour of historic sites.
- Start a "Friends of the Mounds" group to aid with restoration.
- Work with Parks and Recreation Board.
- Contact Ho Chunk Nation who are the official caretakers of Indian Mounds in Wisconsin.
- Joe DeRose, survey and registration historian for the WHS, is available for consultation.
- Visit other area Indian mounds to get ideas:
 - Indian Mound Park – Jefferson County (Lake Koshkonong Golf Course)
 - Garmon Nature Preserve – Waterloo

*It is under the guise of the Landmarks Commission to protect archaeological sites per Municipal Code 217.04.010: "It is the policy of the city that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of archeological sites, geological formations and structures of special character or special historical interest or value is necessary to the prosperity and well-being of the people."

Whitewater Hotel Nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places

Linda Loomer composed a letter supporting the Whitewater Hotel's nomination to the State and National Registers. Kimberly Krebs moved that we send the letter to Daina Penkiunas of the WHS. Second by Patrick Singer. Motion passed unanimously.

Postponed Agenda Items

- IV. Approval of June 10 minutes
- VIII. Train Depot renovation
- IX. James and Ella Rockefeller House
- X. Congregational Church Clock Tower Landmark Status
- XI. Bylaws and Guidelines
- XII. Implementation of new provisions of Title 17

Future Agenda Items

- A. "Free Library" sign - White Memorial Building
- B. White Building Lanterns
- C. Stone Pillars in Starin Park
- D. Whitewater Historical Survey Recommendations

Adjournment

Kathleen Lashley moved for adjournment. Second by Linda Loomer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Christ
Secretary