

WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION
April 7, 2010

Chair, Mariann Scott called to order the monthly meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission at 5:10 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room of the Whitewater Municipal Building.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mariann Scott, Linda Loomer, Kathleen Haas Lashley, Kimberly Krebs, Rick Daniels and Carol Christ. Patrick Singer was absent.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as printed.

Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Haas Lashley moved to approve the March 3, 2010 minutes with the following addition under Old Business: The Maid of the Mist. Linda Loomer asked if there would be a better place to display the Maid. At the present time she is standing in a corner in the hallway of the White Memorial Building. The commission decided to think about a more suitable place. Linda Loomer seconded the motion to approve minutes as corrected. Motion approved.

Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

The next meeting date is set for May 5 at 5 P.M - City Manager's Conference Room at the Whitewater Municipal Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Friends of the Mounds

The *Friends of the Mounds* met for the "pipe ceremony" on March 20th. The location of the "pipe ceremony" that was planned for sunrise at the Whitewater Mounds on the March 20th Solstice, was changed because it snowed. The ceremony was held at Bob Stone and Nancy Dade's house. About a dozen people were present.

On April 22, Earth Day, the Friends are holding a work day. On April 23rd, Whitewater in conjunction with UW – Whitewater, is holding its annual "Make a Difference" Day, and volunteers will be available to work at the mounds, cleaning up debris and pulling up garlic mustard.

Wisconsin Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month - Mounds

May 22nd the Landmarks Commission is planning events to celebrate Wisconsin Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month. The morning will begin with tours of the mounds site. Friend's tour guides will be wearing yellow t-shirts with a map of the mounds printed on them. There will be t-shirts in other colors for sale. This will also be an opportunity to fund raise with the proceeds going for a survey of the mounds. The event will be advertised on the Wisconsin Historical Society website, in the local newspapers, the Fort Atkinson radio station and whitewaterbanner.com.

Landmarks Commission Bylaws and Guidelines

Discussion of the bylaws and guidelines was postponed to the May meeting as Patrick Singer and Wally McDonell, city attorney were not present.

Whitewater Depot Renovation

The contract has been signed and is back from the WI DOT. Work can now begin.

James and Ella Rockefeller House

The status of the James and Ella Rockefeller House at 837 South Janesville Road, owned by Russell Walton is in question due to a Highway 59 intersection change. Mariann was contacted by the Bob Newbery from the Bureau of Equity and Environmental Services, a division of the DOT. He wanted to know what interest we had in the property and if we had any money to help Mr. Walton move. Mariann will relay his message to Joe DeRose of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Whitewater Indian Mounds Task Force

The Indians Mounds Park Task Force (a joint committee of the Park and Recreation Board and the Landmarks Commission) met on Tuesday April 6 at 5 PM. The sign was discussed at the Park and Rec Board. Changes included adding a dash rather than the word "to" between the words Sunrise and Sunset. It was also decided that the "Maples Mound Group" be added above the historical record on the same strip of wood.

The Park and Rec Board has questioned whether this was an ancient burial site of the Ho-Chunk people. An email from Kira Kaufmann, UW Milwaukee archeologist, stated that "there is no direct historical evidence linking any modern tribe to the effigy mounds". It was a recommendation of the task force that the wording of the sign be changed to reference Native American peoples rather than the Ho-Chunk.

There was also a discussion at the Park and Rec Board about whether the word "please" should be kept on the sign. Should it be eliminated from the statements that ask people to respect the site? Matt Amundson said that he would contact Jay Toth, archeologist for the Ho Chunk Nation regarding the wording. After some discussion, The Landmarks commission felt that the word "please" was more respectful and should be kept in the sign. Kathleen Lashley moved that the word "Please" be kept on the sign. Seconded by Linda Loomer. Motion approved. The sign name change is to go before the city council on Thursday, April 7.

The Park and Rec Board also dealt with the shed that the "Friends" wanted to have built to store a lawnmower and tools. Due to liability and union issues, the Friends could not mow the park. Therefore there was no need for the shed.

The task force set 2 priorities – to decide what maintenance needed to be done and to work on the educational aspect by working with Sheila Kindwall, current representative from the Whitewater School District next month before she retires.

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 5 PM on May 4th.

Wisconsin Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month - Local Landmarks

May is Historic Preservation Month. Activities include a display case on the mounds at Irvin Young Library. One of the display cases in the library will feature the local landmarks along with photos. On Saturday, May 22, a walking tour of the historical homes will take place from 1:30 – 4 in the afternoon. Carol passed out a sample letter that will be sent to each owner of a historical home or building inviting them to participate and possibly say a few words about their house as people pass by. Downtown businesses will be encouraged to place old photos in their windows. There will be a presentation and dedication of the Stone Stable's new sign at 1 PM. The Arts Alliance will be open featuring high school student art and there will also be a sculpture tour. Tour maps will be available. The tour route was discussed. There is going to be a binder featuring the landmarks at the library. Kathleen volunteered to do a poster publicizing the events.

Certified Local Governments

On April 15, 1987, the city of Whitewater was recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Certified Local Government for historic preservation purposes. Among other things this makes the city eligible to apply for federal funds. In order to comply with our status as a CLG, a yearly report is due by April along with all of the minutes for the past year. These are to be sent to the State Historic Preservation Commission. Mariann will send the report this month.

Maid of Mist

The Maid of the Mist is not in a protected place. Chuck Nass suggested it be moved to the city garage. The Birge Fountain committee is in agreement about preserving the Maid. Would the Arts Alliance like to display it? The teepees are behind the city garage. They need to be checked to see what condition they are in. The dolphins are in the basement of the train depot. All of these items need to be catalogued and stored in a secure place.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items

- A. Congregational Church Clock Tower
- B. Whitewater Historical Survey Recommendations
- C. Leaflets and Educational Materials
- D. Certified Local Government Reports

Adjournment

Kimberly Krebs moved for adjournment. Seconded by Kathleen Haas Lashley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Christ
Secretary