

WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION

January 6, 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, Kimberly Krebs, Linda Loomer, and Carol Christ. Patrick Singer arrived at 5:30. Kathleen Haas Lashley and Rick Daniels were absent.

Approval of Agenda

Carol Christ moved that the agenda be approved. Linda Loomer seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Approval of Minute

Linda Loomer moved to approve the December 2, 2009 minutes. Kimberly Krebs seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

The next meeting date is set for February 3 at 5 P.M in the City Manager's Conference Room at the Whitewater Municipal Building

OLD BUSINESS

Whitewater Depot Renovation

No report.

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 contacted Mr. Walton to see if he was interested in designating the house and outbuildings as a local landmark. Mr. Walton reported that he contacted the DOT regarding this project and has heard nothing for a year. He is very much interested in preservation and was not aware that his buildings could be designated a local landmark. He is requesting information regarding that status.

Congregational Church Clock Tower

Mariann reported that at this time the church is not interested in pursuing landmark status. It was agreed that the clock tower should remain a future agenda item.

Whitewater Effigy Mounds Task Force

The Indians Mounds Park Task Force (a joint committee of the Park and Recreation Board and the Landmarks Commission) will meet again on Tuesday January 12 at 5 PM. At the December meeting, the task force recommended changing the name from Whitewater Effigy Mounds to Whitewater Mounds Archaeological Preserve. Matt Amundson, parks and recreation director, is working with Jay Toth of the Ho-Chunk Nation on signage (double sided and perpendicular to the road). The Landmarks Commission wondered if the property could be disturbed for a sign or plantings. Mariann contacted John Broihan, state archaeologist, who recommended that posts be left in place so as not to disturb the ground. Carol suggested that unwanted posts could be sawed off at ground level. John also stated that any digging in a certified area would require the presence of an archaeologist. He saw no problem in putting a large sign in the front grassy area. Mariann suggested that a timeline be established for mounds improvements. Many things can be done without funds, such as moving brush, halting mowing to allow natural vegetation to grow on mounds, and blocking off present paths that encroach on mounds.

Friends of the Mounds

Mariann and Nancy Dade Stone are meeting on Thursday, January 7, at 9 AM at the Irvin Young Library to plan the first public meeting to be held later in the month

Solstice Walk at Mounds

Mariann gave a report on the solstice walk she took on December 21st.

Landmarks Commission Bylaws and Guidelines

Patrick Singer reported that he is inviting City Attorney, Wallace McDonnell to the February 3 Landmarks meeting to discuss his recommendations on the bylaws and guidelines.

Consideration of Implementing the New Provisions of Chapter 17

(1)“Upon designation of personal property as city-owned historically significant personal property, The Landmarks Commission may take reasonable actions to notify the general public and city officers and employees of the designation. These actions may include, but are not limited to, creating a registry of said property to be maintained by the city clerk, the labeling of the property by a placard or otherwise or the safe storage of the property”. (2) Any officer or employee of the City of Whitewater who becomes aware of any personal property that may qualify as city-owned historically significant personal property is encouraged to immediately notify the Landmarks Commission of the existence of said property”

Mariann, Michelle Smith (city clerk) and Ellen Penwell (Whitewater Historical Society) met on December 30th to discuss a plan for implementation. Ellen suggested that each item of historically significant property that is to be listed include criteria associated with the item such as person, place, event and reason for designating so as to foster civic awareness of the item’s significance. There may be some instances when a public hearing would be a part of the designation and this could be video taped and included with the documentation. It was suggested that simplified numbering, date, and photographs and or videotapes be included in several notebooks available at city hall and the city garage. Kimberly Krebs volunteered to do an Internet search of other communities that have documented such property. So far the following items are slated to be catalogued:

Stone Pillars, Starin Park
“FREE LIBRARY” signs
White Building Lanterns
Teepees
“Maid of the Mist”
Lithograph
Brick pavers

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. Carol and Mariann will be working on this

NEW BUSINESS

Timeline for 2010 Events

Mariann passed out a planning calendar for 2010 to include a presentation to Kiwanis Club on the mounds in February, CLG report due to state in April and possible activities for Historic Preservation – Archaeological Month (May). Ideas included a photo display case of local landmarks at the Irvin Young Library, a tour of historical landmarks (walking tour of mounds in AM and local landmarks in PM) with tickets designating a donation.

Adjournment

Kimberly moved for adjournment. Seconded by Linda Loomer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Christ
Secretary