

WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION

June 7, 2010

Chair, Mariann Scott called to order the monthly meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission at 5:06 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 and Carol Christ. Marilyn Kienbaum was absent. Brandon Vervelde arrived at 5:20 PM. Brandon was welcomed as the newest member of the commission.

Approval of Agenda

Number XIII was moved to Number II and the agenda was approved.

Skindingsrude Property

Sherry Stanek and Alan Marshall from First English Lutheran Church were present. The church voted to demolish Skindingsrude Funeral Home which they own. It is expensive to update, so a task force has been looking at possible options. It might be used as greens space, meditation garden and/or parking. It is part of the Main Street Historic District and on the State Historic Register. It was suggested that the church contact the Wisconsin Historical Society to see if there are any restrictions on demolition.

Approval of Minutes

Linda Loomer moved to approve the May 5, 2010 minutes with a second by Kathleen Lashley. Motion approved.

Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

The next meeting is set for July 7, at 5 P.M in the City Manager's Conference Room at the Whitewater Municipal Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Whitewater Depot Renovation

Everything has to go to DOT for approval. Work will begin in Feb 2011 and work will probably take a year. It doesn't appear that Landmarks approval will be needed.

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. At the May meeting of the commission, we looked at a memorandum of agreement between the Federal Highway Administration and The Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office that was signed by Kevin Brunner in March. It was not clear if this MOA is in effect. At this point it appears that demolition may be the option that the owner and DOT are pursuing. If so, we need to find out if there will be a way to document the property for historical purposes. Could we get a grant to aid with documentation?

Certified Local Government Reports

Mariann and Michelle Smith are working on these reports to be submitted to the state.

Birge Fountain figures

There is concern that the Maid is not in a protected spot in the Cultural Arts Center. Allen Luckett feels that a case could be built to keep it safe and undamaged. Perhaps the Dolphins could be put in the new library expansion. The Landmarks feels that even if these items do not have an artistic value, they do have historical value.

Landmarks Commission By-Laws

It was agreed that we work on this at the September 2010 meeting.

Friends of the Mounds

Mariann attended the City Council Meeting on June 1 and talked about the survey of the mounds on May 20th. The state archeologist first put in stakes to mark the mounds. GPS coordinates now indicate the boundaries. A new path now is set that doesn't cross over any mounds. A tour of several state mounds is set for next Saturday, June 12th. The Friends are meeting on Thursday, June 10th.

Indians Mounds Task Force

The Task Force met with the Park and Rec Board, Friends of the Mounds and interested citizens on Monday, May 10, for 1 hour and 45 minutes. The name, Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve was agreed upon as the name to submit to the city council for approval. At this point public notification of the name change is going on, in accordance with open meeting law after which the council will take the name under consideration

Whitewater Historic Preservation Day

The first Whitewater Historic Preservation Day was held on May 22nd. Tours were given of the Mounds every hour from 8 – 12 P.M. A costumed presenter at the Stone Stable, Jim Boisvert, in the guise of Zera Mead, talked about the stable. Kathleen Hass Lashley talked about the significance of the building. Ginny Coburn and JerryWendt spoke about the grass roots committee that moved and rebuilt the stable. Approximately thirty people attended the walking tour. There were 5 tours at Sable House. Kathy Fleming of the Hamilton House suggested a tour of churches next year. Pastor Wendt was interested and would be willing to participate. It was suggested that we have a committee work on this and set a date by October. It was agreed to keep the event in May during Historic Preservation Month. The Historic Starin Park Neighborhood Assn (Fremont and Franklin-Esterly proposed historic districts) might also be interested in a tour.

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of future local landmarks

While doing research, Mariann discovered that the Pescheret Building had once been nominated as a local landmark. For some reason it was not approved. It was suggested that the owners be approached to see if they were interested in pursuing local landmark status at this time. The Pescheret house applied before and we have all of the paperwork.

Vivian Henderson, owner of a historic home at the corner of Gault and Harper has contacted the Commission, requesting local landmark status for her home. It was a school.

Leaflets and Educational Materials

There is a need for a new Local Landmarks booklet. Linda Loomer will collect what has already been published

Future Agenda Items

- A. Congregational Church Clock Tower
- B. Whitewater Historical Survey Recommendations
- C. Report on new provisions of Chapter 17

Adjournment

Kathleen moved for adjournment; motion seconded by Linda Loomer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Christ
Secretary