

WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION
October 20, 2010

Chair, Mariann Scott called to order the monthly meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission at 5:11 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, Richard Helmick and Carol Christ. David Sachs, Brandon VerVelde and Marilyn Kienbaum were absent.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as printed.

Approval of Minutes

Carol moved to approve the August 4, 2010 minutes. Linda seconded. Motion approved. Linda moved to approve the Sept 1, 2010 minutes with the following correction: Old Business, VI a. – change Wally to Wally McDonnel. Motion was seconded by Carol. Motion was carried.

Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

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

Announcements

At the October 19th Common Council meeting Richard Helmick and David Sachs were appointed as commissioners to the Landmarks Commission to fill two vacant positions. Richard Helmick was present and welcomed to the Commission.

Mariann indicated that there were errors on page 88 of the Whitewater Architectural and Historical Survey. Carol volunteered to make stickers adding the Whitewater Passenger Depot and Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve to the list of local landmarks. Mariann also emphasized that the surveys are the property of the City of Whitewater and stickers will be put on the covers indicating so. When a commissioner leaves, the survey book should be returned to the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Landmarks Commission By-laws

Richard moved to accept and Linda seconded the motion to approve 10/18/2010 draft of the by-laws. Motion unanimously approved.

Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve Boundary Survey

It is believed that in the 1990's there was a buffer zone established around the mounds. A search of city records is being conducted in order to verify this information. .

Friends of the Mounds

On September 11, Richard Helmick and Denay Trykowski went to a Milwaukee County for the Lake Park Indian Mound Centennial Celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the preservation of Milwaukee's last remaining prehistoric mound. The Friends are asking if there will be a burn either this autumn or early next spring at Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve.

Effigy Mounds Task Force

Carol reported that the Effigy Mounds Task Force met prior to this meeting and reviewed the Restoration Proposals. Six proposals were submitted and narrowed down to two – Commonwealth Cultural Resource Group, Inc. and Jennings & Associates, Landscape Architecture. After discussion and comparison, the committee recommended Jennings and Associates. A burn is scheduled for next spring.

Birge Fountain figures

Linda reported that Chuck Nass has moved the Maid of the Mist into the city garage and a case is going to be put around it to protect it. The commission agreed that for now it will be put back into its former position in the Cultural Arts Center until a more suitable place can be found.

Possible Future Landmarks Designations

Mariann will be contacting Mercy Health Care regarding the Leon Pescheret House. Vivian Henderson is concerned that a designation as a local landmark could affect the marketability of her house. Another option could be establishing a covenant in the purchase agreement when she sells the house. This is a question for Wally McDonell, city attorney. Richard reported that the Starin Park Historic Neighborhood is interested in becoming a historic district. He will contact them. Mariann will check with the Wisconsin Historical Society on the availability of a speaker. It was noted that becoming an historic district positively affects resale value of homes in the district, contrary to public opinion.

Local History and Historic Preservation Conference

Mariann attended the conference on October 15 & 16th in Lake Geneva. She handed out two articles describing best practices techniques and how to conduct a preservation commission meeting. Since we will soon be dealing with some new local landmark designations, Mariann will be compiling a list of talking points on the importance of preservation and how historic districts help preserve neighborhoods.

NEW BUSINESS

Historical and Archaeological Preservation Month

No report.

Title 17

For the November meeting, commissioners should review Title 17 of the city of Whitewater Municipal Code found on the city website www.ci.whitewater.wi.us/ under *Your Government*. Carefully read 17.12, 17.16 and 17.20 dealing with designations, construction, alterations, and demolitions. Familiarity with the code is essential for upcoming COA's (Certificates of Appropriateness) meetings.

Future Agenda Items

1. Yasko and Ambrose Properties - future local landmarks.
2. Whitewater Historical Survey Recommendations
3. New Provisions of Chapter 17 – criteria & list
4. Leaflets and educational materials
5. Possible grants – Jeffris Family Foundation & CLG
6. Plaques for Whitewater sites on National Register of Historic Places
7. James & Ella Rockefeller House – 837 South Janesville Road (moving or demolition)
8. Relocating Stone UWW Stone Pillars on intersection of Main and Whiton Streets

Linda moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Richard. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Christ
Acting Secretary