

Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Thursday, June 7, 2012
Minutes

Call to Order:

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM. Roll call was taken. Members present: Carol Christ, Richard Helmick, Linda Loomer, Mariann Scott, Nancy Wendt, Allan Marshall, Suzanne Haselow. Suzanne was welcomed to the commission. Absent: Marilyn Kienbaum. Neighborhood Services Director Latisha Birkeland was present.
- II. Christ recommended that items X., XIV., XX., XXII., and XXIV be moved to follow item VII. so that Birkeland could leave to attend the City Council Meeting at 6:30 PM. Helmick moved to approve the rearrangement. Marshall seconded. AYES: Christ, Haselow, Helmick, Loomer, Marshall, Wendt NOES: None. Absent: Kienbaum
- III. Minutes from April 4, 2012 and special meeting, April 18, 2012 were unavailable for approval.
- IV. The next meeting was set for July 5, 2012 at 6 PM in the city manager's conference room.
- V. Chair - Helmick nominated Christ. Marshall seconded.
Vice Chair - Helmick nominated Marshall. Loomer seconded.
Secretary - Marshall nominated Helmick. Wendt seconded. Loomer moved to accept the slate of officers. Wendt seconded.
AYES: Christ, Haselow, Helmick, Loomer, Marshall, Wendt
NOES: None. Absent: Kienbaum
- VI. There were no citizen comments.

Reports:

- VII. Meeting with City Manager and Neighborhood Services Director on April 23, 2012. Scott, Christ, and Birkeland met with city manager, Kevin Brunner. All agreed that Birkeland would be a non-voting member on the commission. Brunner also stated that the Landmarks Commission needed a budget from the city; better communications need to be established between the commission and city staff; and more education of city council members on the Commission's duties and activities need to be done.
- VIII. Report from the Friends of the Mounds (FOTEM)
 - A. Burial Sites Preservation Board meeting June 8, 2012. No report.
 - B. Wisconsin Archeology Society meeting May 5, 2012. Christ, Helmick, and Haeslow attended the meeting. A presentation outlining the most recent archeological studies conducted at Aztalan State Park was given. Additionally, information on the on-going archeological studies at Trempealeau, WI was available.
 - C. Presentation to WI Retired Educators Association June 12, 2012. Christ and Helmick will present information on the past history and present preservation activities of the WEMP.
 - D. FOTEM Newsletters for April, 2012 and May, 2012. The newsletters were distributed to council members.
- IX. Update on the James and Ella Rockefeller House. Christ reported that the WI DOT still needs to send the commission information on stipulation 3 re the archeological survey of borrow batch plants and waste sites. Once she has all of the available records, data, and photos pertaining to the house, Christ will add that to the material in a three ring binder which will be kept with commission files. A CD disc of photos will be sent to the WI Historical Society for them to place it on its web site.
- X. Update on the restoration of the Whitewater passenger Depot. Marshall reported that the bids were finalized and accepted by the city. Work should begin soon with a hopeful completion date sometime this Fall. Cameron Clapper, recently appointed interim City Manager, had been the lead staff member on this project. He will be turning over the position to Birkeland.

- XI. Update on Walking Tour Brochure. There was no report. Wendt will contact Kathy Fleming and inquire on progress.
- XII. Update on the Birge Fountain. Loomer reported that the basin lights have been repaired and are now in place. The committee is exploring the possibility of replacing the present lights with LEDs.
- XIII. Recap on events planned for Historical and Archeological Month, May, 2012.
 - A. Mounds tours. On May 5, Kurt Sampson, President of the WI Archeological Society, gave a very informative presentation on the history of the mound builders in WI. A second tour scheduled for May 26 was cancelled due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled to June 23. Renae Prell-Mitchell will conduct a tour of the vegetation at the WEMP.
 - B. Whitewater Community Television. Christ reported that Allan Lucket ran a number of videos from past tours and presentations conducted by the commission on the Saturdays during the month of May.
 - C. Library Display. Christ reported that she and Loomer prepared the larger display case in the library entrance with materials highlighting the activities of the commission. Photos of the city's landmarks were displayed along with other, educational material.
 - D. City Hall Reception, May 3, 2012. Owners of all city landmarks were invited to a presentation at city hall and given plaques commemorating their properties and the dates they were made city landmarks. Christ gave a brief overview of the commission's activities. Refreshments were served.
 - E. City proclamation and annual report to the city council, May 8, 2012. Christ gave the annual report of the Landmark Commission's activities. Following that, Brunner presented Christ with a proclamation reflecting the value of the Commission for the city and the work it has been doing.
- XIV. Update on Local Landmarks/Main Street Historic District Brochures. Birkland reported that city staff can produce 11 x 17 inch maps for use by the council. Wording and layout suggestions will need to be submitted to her.
- XV. Update on Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve Long Range Preservation and Maintenance Plan. Refer to above (VII B).
- XVI. Report on WI Association of Historical Preservation Commissions (WAHPC) Saturday, April 28, 2012. Christ and Helmick attended. The city will continue to sponsor membership for the Landmarks Commission.

Unfinished Business:

- XVII. Petition of rescission of Landmarks Designation for the Nelson Salisbury House – 404 W. North Street. Discussion re: Nelson Salisbury house brought about the following comments:
 - * The Landmarks Commission can designate a property without the owner's consent.
 - * Once a "Landmark" cannot delist them.
 - * Whitewater ordinance says that a property can be delisted if a buyer cannot be found.
 - * A property owner can be charged \$25. a day if not in compliance.
 - * House is a write-off, nothing can be done.
 - * Joe DeRose may be able to help us change #17 so that others cannot do delisting.
- XVIII. Status of City Council's process for addressing fence encroachments at WEMP. Contact John Broihahn to investigate the fence issue at the Mounds, five foot buffer?
Another possibility would be Bill Quackenbush.
Regarding the garden encroachments, even if, as Broihan states, they might not actually be mounds, they are still within the burial grounds. It is recommended to contact the Burial Board on this issue.
- XIX. Status of Free Library history panel for the White Memorial Library. No report.
- XX. Status of Title 17 Amendment – COA. Addressed earlier.

- XXI. Implementing 17.08.040 of Title 17. Michelle Smith, Mariann Scott and Carol Christ made a list of city owned property and artifacts which was sent to all city staff with a request for them to be aware & report any findings. Carol will check with Michelle to see if any other items have been identified.

New Business:

- XXII. Neighborhood Services Directory, Latisha Birkland, will be attending Landmarks Commission meetings. Previously discussed.
- XXIII. Set date for the annual, in-house training and planning session for commission members. Annual in-house training will be held in lieu of regular meeting on September 6th.
- XXIV. Updates to Landmarks Commission website. Christ and Birkland will work on a link to local landmarks on the City website.
- XXV. Certified Local Government grants. There is a slight possibility that there may be grants available to purchase plaques.
- XXVI. Preserve America E-news. Whitewater was designated a "Preserve America" city in 2007. Carol will send a link to the e-news.

Future Agenda Items:

- XXVII. Future designations of city owned properties as local landmarks.
- XXVIII. Plaques for Whitewater sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

Adjournment:

- XXIX. Motion to adjourn by Loomer / Marshall. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Richard Helmick,
Secretary, Landmarks Commission