

Minutes

Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Thursday August 2, 2012 - 6 PM
City Manager's Conference Room
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- I. Call to Order and roll call
The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM
Present: Carol Christ, Allan Marshall, Richard Helmick, Linda Loomer, Nancy Wendt, Suzanne Haselow
Staff: Latisha Birkeland
Absent: Marilyn Kienbaum
Visitors: None
- II. Approval of agenda and possible rearrangement
It was moved by Marshall/ Loomer to approve the agenda as written. The motion was unanimously passed.
- III. Approval of minutes of April 4, 2012, special meeting; April 18, 2012; June 7, 2012; special meeting, July 28, 2012.
It was moved by Marshal /Wendt to approve the minutes of April 4, 2012 as written. The motion was unanimously passed.
- IV. Set date and time of next meeting - Thursday, September 6, 2012 - 6:00 P.M Annual training session
The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 6:00 PM. There will be a short meeting followed by a training session.
- V. Hear Citizen Comments: No formal Landmarks Commission Action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Commission discusses that particular item.
There were no citizen comments.

REPORTS

- VI Report from the Friends of the Mounds - FOTEM (Helmick)
 - A. Burial Sites Board Preservation Meeting, June 8, 2012 – Madison
There was no report. Mr. Bill Quakenbush, HoChunk Nation Preservation Board, sent a letter to the Landmarks Commission concerning boundary encroachments.
 - B. Parks and Rec Board meeting - June 14 and July 2, 2012
An addendum to the long range plan was made and voted upon by the Park & Rec. board to remove the vegetation on top of two of the mounds and re-seed them with short stature, prairie grasses. Turf removal will be achieved by two chemical applications followed by a burn of the remaining material. The mounds will then be seeded so that the grasses will sprout during Spring, 2013. Two of the smaller, oval mounds will be picked for this trial.
 - C. Presentation on June 12, 2012 to Wisconsin Retired Educators Association
Christ and Helmick gave a short, descriptive presentation describing the Effigy Mounds Preserve, the preservation history, and future plans for continued maintenance and improvements.
 - D. June 23rd Mounds Tour on native plant communities by Renae Prell-Mitchell (Christ)
Eighteen people attended the tour. Renae gave descriptions of the various plant communities that are present.
 - E. FOTEM Meeting - Saturday, July 7, 2012 - 8 AM Sweet Spot
Work times were set to gather seed heads and eradicate burdock plants. By-laws were discussed by those present. Also discussed was the possibility of establishing FOTEM as a non -profit organization.
 - F. FOTEM Newsletters- June, 2012. Newsletters were emailed to those on FOTEM's mailing list.
- VII Update on James and Ella Rockefeller House (Christ)
The state sent a letter advising the Commission that all stipulations regarding the property have been completed. Christ will collate the remaining information in the Rockefeller House binder.
- VIII Update on restoration of Whitewater Passenger Depot (Marshall)
The vault in the basement has been removed. The bathrooms will be framed this week. Hopefully, everything will be completed by the end of this October. Due to savings, former items that had been eliminated may be reinstated.
- IX Update on Walking Tour Brochure (Wendt)
The tourism council has money put aside for creating this brochure. The Whitewater Historical Society is presently

- working on it.
- X. Update on Birge Fountain (Loomer)
There have been problems with the water flow through the cattails on the fountain. A new trident has been obtained but still needs to be attached to the cherub. There is no news on the possible changing of the basin lights.
 - XI. Update on Local Landmarks/Main Street Historic District Brochures (Loomer, Marshall & Christ)
There is no report.
 - XII. Update on Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve Preservation and Maintenance Plan
On July 2, the plan was amended by the Parks and Recreation Board to include changes to turf removal from the tops of the mounds and reseeding with short stature, prairie grasses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- XIII. Petition for rescission of landmark designation for Nelson Salisbury House - 404 W. North (Christ)
Christ has talked with the real estate agent for the property. The prospective buyer is interested in sustaining landmark status. No decision by the Commission is needed until August, 6, 2012. By that time, more, definitive information should be available to the commission.
- XIV. Status of City Council Process on Fence Encroachments at the Effigy Mounds Preserve (Christ)
The council still needs to address the remaining encroachment issues along the Western boundary of the Preserve. This most likely will be done at a future date in association with establishing visible boundary markers along the entire perimeter of the preserve.
- XV. Status of FREE LIBRARY history panel for White Memorial Library
No report at this time. Loomer will follow up.
- XVI. Status of Title 17 Amendment - Certificate of Approval for public/private property (COA) - (Christ)
The Commission has forwarded "boiler plate language" suggested by the state for adoption by the council. Perhaps a better option would be to establish a Commission policy to govern the procedure. Neighborhood Services need to have something it can use when addressing interested parties. Suggested language will be drafted and presented to the commission at its next meeting.
- XVII. Implementing 17.08.040 of Title 17 re city-owned historically significant personal property.
No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- XVIII. Nomination of Whitewater Passenger Depot to the National Register of Historic Places
The Whitewater Historical Society needs a letter of formal support for their nomination. It was moved by Marshall/Loomer to send a letter to the state in support of the Depot's eligibility to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The motion was unanimously passed. Loomer will draft a letter to be sent.
- XIX. Corrections to Architectural and Historical Survey of Whitewater, WI 53190
The passenger depot, the Congregational Church, and the Effigy Mounds Preserve is not included in the list. Christ will contact Carol Cartwright and request that she amend the list.
- XX. Request for Local Landmark Designation - 302 South Prince
Christ and Helmick met with the property owner and toured the property on July 28. They discussed the process involved to obtain landmarks designation. The property owner will do some more research on the property and then contact the commission if she decides to move ahead with her request.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- XXI. Future designations of city-owned properties as local landmarks
Loomer suggested that the water tower in Starin Park could possibly be awarded landmark status. Another possible candidate would be the horse fountain in front of the depot.
- XXII. Plaques for Whitewater sites on the National Register of Historic Places

ADJOURNMENT

- XXIII. Call to Adjourn
Marshall/Helmick moved to adjourn. The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectively submitted by Richard Helmick, secretary