



MINUTES

Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Thursday, May 7, 2015 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Building, City Managers Conference Room
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Allan Luckett at 6:35 PM.

Present: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick

Absent: Common Council Representative

Staff present: Alan Luckett

Others: None

- Introduction of new Landmarks Commission member

Kori Oberle was welcomed to the commission.

- Election of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)

-Ken Kienbaum was thanked for accepting the chair for this past year. With his permission, Helmick nominated Blackmer for chair. Haselow seconded.

Seeing no other nominations, Luckett closed nominations.

Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick

Nays: None

Abstain: None

-Blackmer nominated Oberle for vice-chair. Haselow seconded. Seeing no other nominations, Luckett closed nominations.

Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick

Nays: None

Abstain: None

-Oberle nominated Helmick for secretary. Blackmer seconded. Seeing no other nomination, Luckett closed nominations.

Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Luckett turned the meeting over to Chairperson Blackmer.

- Approval of Agenda
Luckett will report on the Landmark signage as well as the water tower and armory.
MSC Oberle/Kienbaum to accept the agenda with noted additions.
Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2015
Kienbaum noted that the meeting was called to order by Allan Marshall. MSC Kienbaum/Oberle to accept the minutes with corrections.
Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, June 4, 2015 - 6:30 PM
The next meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 6:00 PM. (Please note the change from 6:30 PM.) MSC Oberle/Haselow to move all, future meeting times to begin at 6:00 PM.
Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Suzanne Popke, Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- 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

- Friends of the Mounds (Helmick)
Richard Helmick attended the Wisconsin Archeological Society (WAS) conference on April 25, 2015 at the Aldo Leopold Center outside Baraboo, WI. It proved to be very informative. (notes attached)
-An invitation to all interested stake holders was emailed on 5/7/15 to attend a meeting of FOTEM. The group last met in March, 2013. Depending upon the response, it will be determined if FOTEM should continue to function and in what manner. Luckett mentioned that it might be better to hold the meeting in the evening than in the afternoon.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick) (Oberle)
 - City employee Scott Weberpal is contacting the Walworth County Land Information Officer to see if the county will be acquiring the LiDAR system in the near future. If yes, it is hoped that the system can be used to obtain accurate measurement of mound perimeters at the Preserve. If not, perhaps it can be borrowed from a neighboring county or purchased for the City of Whitewater via an anonymous donation.
 - Specific information regarding mound management techniques from the WAS conference on April 25 was discussed as it applies to the Whitewater Preserve. A brief report on the condition of the Preserve prepared by Kienbaum on May 2, 2015, was shared and discussed with the Commission. (attached) Oberle stated that a private contractor has been hired by Park & Rec to apply chemicals to deter invasive plants and to seed with no-till native prairie plants in the

Preserve in 2015. One of the problems has been that the burns, conducted earlier, have not been entirely successful. Maintenance at the Preserve has been and always will be a work in progress. It is hoped that the Preserve will eventually look like native prairie and oak savanna, and not like a golf course or manicured park.

- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)
 - Last fall, the committee had voted to paint the cast iron portions of the fountain. This spring, painting was supposed to begin on the bottoms of the two basins. Cleaning of the cherubs, prior to painting, proved to be problematic. More research is being done to find the best method of cleaning.
 - The camera system used for security of the fountain was recommended to be upgraded to become compatible with the present system already in effect at other city properties. Blackmer pointed out that there is no signage indicating that the fountain is under surveillance. Kienbaum noted that the committee has funds set aside for a new camera. He also said that new, LED lights are being considered as replacements for the current lights.
- Landmark Signage (Lockett)

Lockett handed out pictures of Taylor's work (attached). She was supposed to confirm with Lockett that she has received half payment for her work last month. Taylor is continuing with the project. She should be finished by the end of May. Delivery date and manner still needs to be finalized. Lockett expects delivery to be made to City Hall.

Unfinished Business

- Work on wording on signage for the Mounds in conjunction with the Friends of the Mounds Committee

Oberle shared an outline of points to be included in the two first signs: the one on the sidewalk near the "Park" sign and the one at the entrance to the Preserve. The main purpose of the sign along the side walk along Indian Mounds Parkway will be to prepare the visitor to what is in the preserve, the trails, that no pets are allowed, and other, introductory information along with an updated, aerial map. More detailed information would be presented on another sign near the inner entrance to the Preserve. Not every mound is intended to have signage. Typical, pedestal signs will be along the sidewalk and at the trail entrance to the Preserve. Signage inside the Preserve will be placed on boulders that Kienbaum has volunteered to obtain. Commissioners will be sent an email before the next Landmarks meeting that will have more precise wording for consideration. All text must also be approved by Matt Amundson, the Parks & Rec Board, the UFC members, the Historical Society Board, and the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds – Face Book (Oberle)

The Face Book page is up and operating. Commissioners are encouraged to "like" the page. Alan Lockett will also have log-in credentials on file to access this Facebook page. Commissioners congratulated Oberle on her work to accomplish this project. This project will be removed from "Unfinished Business" and to "Reports" on upcoming meeting agendas.
- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Lockett)

Lockett emailed the contact person at UW-Whitewater twice in an attempt to get the credentials needed to effect changes on the site. Once these are obtained, he will be able to fix the present access problems.

New Business

- Research on Grants (Haselow)

Denay Trykowski is following up with the state of WI. Haselow is following up with the Ho Chunk Nation. At this time, obtaining grant funding does not look promising. It was suggested

that this item be taken off of the agenda. Blackmer would like to see it continue here because the Walworth County Historical Society may prove to be helpful.

- City Water Tower nomination as a local Landmark (Luckett)

Luckett passed out the Landmark Commission's procedure for landmark designation, Ordinance 17.12.020. He suggested that the commission take the same steps that it took in designating the City Armory to nominate the City Water Tower. This includes first checking in with the City's Water Tower Superintendent. Luckett will do so. A question that needs to be answered is what sections of the tower should be considered for landmark status. Oberle volunteered to meet with Luckett to go over the steps that the city of Fort Atkinson used in designating its water tower. Haselow volunteered to attend this meeting as well. Discussion ensued as to the importance of a landmark designation and what it may mean.

Luckett mentioned that the Landmark Commission still needs to send a letter to the city, as property owner, of landmark designation given to the City Armory. Helmick will draft a letter for Commission review.

(Popke left the meeting at 8:10 PM.)

- May is National Preservation Month and National Archeological Month. Proclamations to be given out at Common Council Meeting on May 19, 2015. Landmarks Commission representative is to be at the meeting. Check with City Clerk.
Kienbaum will accept the proclamations from the city.
- Landmarks Commission Annual Report to be given at same Common Council meeting.
Kienbaum will give a report to the council. Blackmer volunteered to assist him with the annual report.
- Annual Report to be filed with the State Historical Society.
Same as above. Kienbaum also said he has received additional papers from the state that need to be followed. The annual report format is on line. Oberle suggested that Michelle Smith would have copies of past reports for reference if needed.

Future Agenda Items

- Friends of the Mounds activities
- Mounds Preserve Preservation and Maintenance Plan activities
- Signage at the Preserve
- An annual calendar of events and tasks to be done and/or attended
- Discuss and create a list of strategic priorities on which the Landmarks Commission should focus on over the next 5 years
- Consideration of the spillway on Tripp Lake as a possible landmark
- Landmark signage follow up

Good of the Order

Adjournment

Blackmer called for the meeting to be adjourned. MSC Haselow/Helmick to adjourn.

Ayes: Ken Kienbaum, Pat Blackmer, Suzanne Haselow, Kori Oberle, Richard
Helmick

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Helmick, secretary

Attachments (2)