



## Whitewater Landmarks Commission

### Minutes

Thursday, August 6, 2015 – 6:00 PM  
Municipal Building, City Managers Conference Room  
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

#### Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call  
Vice-chair Oberle called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM  
Present: Kori Oberle, Suzanne Haselow, Ken Kienbaum, Richard Helmick  
Absent: Patricia Blackmer, Suzanne Popke, James Langness III  
Staff present: None  
Others present: Taylor
  - Approval of Agenda  
Oberle requested that Landmark Signage report be moved to the top of the list. MSC Haselow/Oberle to approve the agenda as published.  
Ayes: Oberle, Haselow, Kienbaum, Helmick  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None
  - Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2015  
MSC Helmick/Haselow to approve the minutes of 09-03-15 as presented.  
Ayes: Oberle, Haselow, Kienbaum, Helmick  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None
  - Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2015 - 6:00 PM  
The next, regular meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission will be held on 09-03-15 at 6:00 PM at city hall, in the city manager's conference room.
  - 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**
- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)

McDarison presented a power point report to the commission on her progress. She explained that the project is not completed today as planned. The plaque for the Queen Anne style properties still needs to be completed. She brought with her four, prototypes of the other plaques. She believes that she put roughly 150 hours so far and will need close to another 15 hours to complete the last plaque. At this time, she is proposing another month's extension. Oberle requested that McDarison keep in touch with Popke regarding her progress. Oberle also suggested that this item remain on the commission's agenda as an on-going project for discussion at the September 3 meeting. McDarison asked for additional guidance on the plaque for the Kiernan-Yasko landmark. Helmick suggested that McDarison contact Caryle Yasko, discuss the project with her, and see if she has suggestions. Discussion ensued. McDarison plans to bring all the completed plaques to the September 3 meeting. Publicity for the project will also be discussed and finalized at that meeting. McDarison will keep in contact with the commission through Popke. The commission will need to figure out where and how the plaques will be stored.

- Friends of the Mounds (Oberle)

There was a second meeting of FOTEM this past Monday evening. The group decided to co-sponsor with the Whitewater Historical Society a program regarding the mounds, religious/spiritual connections, with a possible tour. The group also decided to create by-laws in order to be a more structured, organized entity. The next meeting will be either September 21 or 28, depending upon availability of a room at the library.

- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick/Oberle)

Two weeks ago, Mid-West Prairie completed the herbicide application at the preserve. Mid-West Prairies also trained city crew in order for the city to do this in the future.

- Power Point Presentation of Proposed Mounds Preserve Signage and Way Finding Design and Text (Oberle)

Oberle presented a power point program on suggested signage that was discussed at the last FOTEM meeting. She explained the placements, sizes, and wording for the signage. Signs within the preserve would be placed on plaques affixed to large rocks. The rocks will be placed on the ground so as not to disturb the soil. Informational signs will be placed on non-catalogued ground, one near the sidewalk and another near the entrance. In total, 10 new signs will be created. Signage will not go to each, individual mound. Instead, suitable areas will have signage to indicate the types of mounds, flora, and fauna present. The mounds themselves will be grouped into four areas for the purpose of signage. Signage will also be provided to highlight the oak savanna, birds and other wild life, trees, and other plantings. All existing signs presently at the preserve, with the exception of the new, large sign along the street, will be removed. Discussion ensued. Oberle will present this information to the Parks and Recreation Board for their input.

- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)

The committee needs to have a meeting and elect a new chair before any more business can be discussed. Oberle asked whether or not this item should be a regular, agenda item. Haselow suggested that it be added to the agenda as needed.

### **Unfinished Business**

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

This information was discussed in detail in the above section under Reports.

- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Luckett)

No report.

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

No report.

- Consideration of the spillway on Trippe Lake (Kienbaum)  
No report at this time. It will be included as an agenda item for the October meeting.

### **New Business**

- Research on Grants (Blackmer)

Oberle read a report Blackmer had sent her. "The Effigy Mounds Preserve could qualify for grant monies from the Getzen Fund. We would need to submit a request as of January 1, 2016 and see where it goes. I know that there is/was small grant funding available from the State Historical Society but required matching funds from the agency applying. I am not sure this still available, but it does come up on an annual basis and is specific to historic preservation."

- Ninth Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, October 9-10 at Middleton, WI

Oberle passed an informational brochure to commissioners detailing the conference. Money is available for members to pay for registration which would include lunch. Blackmer will be attending and is willing to have others join her.

- Annual Report filed with the State Historical Society has been completed
- Annual Report filed with the National Park Service to maintain CLG status has been completed
- An annual calendar of events and tasks to be done and/or attended

Once again, members were given copies for reading at home. Comments and suggestions should be brought to the next meeting. (The proposed calendar is attached.)

- Discuss and create a list of strategic priorities on which the Landmarks Commission should focus on over the next 5 years  
Same as above. The proposed list is attached.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Haselow is hoping to have a list of the Pesheret prints that are being held by the city library. The prints are city property. An accurate listing should be available. Discussion ensued. Hopefully, at the September meeting Haselow will have a list. This will be added to the agenda as a New Business item.

### **Good of the Order**

There were no reports.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Oberle at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Helmick, secretary

**LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
PROPOSED CALENDAR**

**2015:**

- August 3: Friends of the Effigy Mounds Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library  
August 6: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm  
Completion of Landmarks Signage Project by Taylor McDarison  
August 11: Parks and Rec Dept. Mtg, 5:30 pm Power Point presentation on Effigy Mounds
- September 3: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm  
Sept/Oct: (TBA), Walworth County Historical Society, Presentation on the Effigy Mounds Preserve, a selected Thursday evening, 7:00p pm, at Heritage Hall, Elkhorn  
Sept/Oct: TBA, Walworth County Historical Society, Guided Tour of the Effigy Mounds Preserve, on a Saturday (TBA)
- October: Early Religious Practices (include Mounds Preserve) presented by Michael Gueno from UW-Whitewater hosted by the Whitewater Historical Society, Sunday afternoon (TBA)
- October 1: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm
- November 5: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm
- December 3: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm

**2016**

- February 4: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm
- March 3: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm
- April 7: Landmarks Meeting, 6:00 pm
- April 30: Set up display at Library on historic preservation/archaeology
- May 1-30: Education display at Library – historic preservation/archaeology
- May 5: Landmark Meeting, 6:00 pm
- May ?: Annual Landmarks Commission Report presented to City Council
- May 31: Remove display at Library

**LANDMARKS COMMISSION**  
**FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN PROPOSAL**

Achieve local landmark status for the Starin Park Water Tower

Local/State/National Register considerations for landmarks:

- Spooner-Ambrose House at 724 Center Street
- John S. Partridge House at 745 Center Street
- Warte/Leland House at 614 West Main
- 227 Boone Court

Proposed Local Landmarks: Downtown Historic Districts

Development of Educational Materials:

- Provide information on local history and historic preservation to the Whitewater/Walworth County school systems
- Assist community in promoting historic preservation in conjunction with (Whitewater Historical Society, Downtown Whitewater, Inc., Tourism Bureau/Chamber of Commerce, City Council, Walworth County Historical Society)
- Continue to publish written materials about local historic landmarks (updates)

Review and update existing preservation lists

Effigy Mounds:

- Continue to assist in recruiting members to FOTEM
- Assist with completion of LiDAR survey
- Complete signage project
- Continue preservation of the mounds

Develop long range publicity campaign for our Landmarks and Effigy Mounds through media to include (area newspapers, The Banner, Facebook, etc.)

Investigate and secure grants to promote preservation

Continue to provide annual reports to the State Historical Society and Department of Natural Resources

Additions /Revisions to this plan are welcomed and encouraged!

