



Minutes

**Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Thursday, September 3, 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
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.
Present: Patricia Blackmer, Kori Oberle, Suzanne Haselow, James Langnes III, Richard Helmick
Absent: Ken Kienbaum, Suzanne Popke
Staff present: Alan Luckett
Guests: Taylor McDarison
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Oberle/Langness to approve the agenda was approved as presented.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2015
Corrections to the draft minutes of August 6, 2015: under New Business, Annual report filed with the State Historical Society, delete “Oberle distributed copies of the report to members to take with them and read at home. Comments and suggestions should go to Blackmer or can be brought to the next meeting.
Under New Business, Annual report filed with the National Parks Service, delete “Again, as above, copies were distributed
MSC Oberle/Helmick to approve the minutes as corrected.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, October 1, 2015 - 6:00 PM
The next meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:00 PM 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

- Friends of the Mounds (Oberle)
 - The 3rd meeting of the Friends of the Mounds (FOTM) is scheduled for September 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Irvin Young Library. A draft of by-laws will be presented and reviewed.
 - On Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Whitewater Historical Society (train depot) a program on religious practices from archaic through the woodland archeological periods will be jointly presented by FOTM and the Historical Society. The presentation will be followed by a tour of the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve, weather permitting.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick/Oberle)
No report. Please see below for a discussion on new signage to be used at the Preserve.
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)
No report. It was recommended that the Chair contact Chuck Nass, the staff representative on the Birge Fountain Committee, and request that a meeting be called to elect a new chairperson. (Due to a resignation, the committee does not have a chairperson. It is the chairperson's duty to schedule meetings.)
- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)
McDarison requested that her report be delayed until Popke is present.

Unfinished Business

- Work on wording on signage for the Mounds in conjunction with the Friends of the Mounds Committee (Oberle)
New signage has been reviewed by the Landmarks Commission, and the FOTM. Due to cancellations, it has not been presented to the Parks and Recreation Board as yet. It will be presented to the Park's Board at its next meeting with direction for comments and future directions. (The Park's Board has already included a budget item to cover the costs of the new signage.)
- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Luckett)
Luckett reported that he still needs to contact Scott Weberpaul in order to clear up some remaining glitches.
- City Water Tower nomination as a local Landmark (Luckett)
Luckett distributed an early photograph of the water tower along with its nomination form for members to consider. Discussion ensued. The subcommittee will continue to work on the nomination form and report back to the commission at its next meeting.
- Consideration of the spillway on Trippe Lake (Kienbaum)
No report.

New Business

- Research on Grants (Blackmer)
No report.
- Ninth Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, October 9-10 at Middleton, WI
Registration and mileage expenses have been paid by the city for past conferences. It is expected that this practice will be continued. Haselow indicated she would be interested in attending. If she decides to attend, she will contact the city clerk for more information.
- Continue to work on an annual calendar of events and tasks to be done and/or attended
Discussion ensued.
- Continue discussion and creation of a list of strategic priorities on which the Landmarks Commission should focus on over the next 5 years
Blackmer asked for additions/comments to the plan that was distributed at last month's meeting. Discussion ensued. Suggestions to the plan included:
 - Review the city ordinance (Title 17) for direction from the city on specific responsibilities of the Commission;
 - Review the R2 zoning district to identify significant, historical properties that may be at risk;
 - Promote more cooperative projects with external (other organizations and groups within the county) as well as internal (organizations and groups within the city);
 - Hold an educational retreat for commission members.

(Popke arrived at 6:57 PM.)

(Agenda discontinued hearing McDarison's report on Landmark signage.)

- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)
McDarison presented a power point presentation of her progress on signage. All five prototypes signs were presented. The storage of these signs was discussed with Luckett volunteering to store them at his office. The prototypes may be used to replicate any of the signage in case any of them are damaged. McDarison explained she had encountered unplanned difficulties with the coloring and glazing of the signs and requested a more lengthy delay for the completion of the project. She explained she had about 60% of the project completed but due to curricular demands at the university, would not have time to complete things after this upcoming semester.
MSC Oberle/Haselow McDarison will develop a spread sheet on the status of the 13 tiles needed for the landmark properties. The spread sheet will be digitally shared with all of the commission members as soon as possible.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick, Popke
Nays: None
Abstain: None
She was invited to attend the December, 2015 Landmarks Commission meeting to report on work that needed to be completed. A reception of the completed project will be planned for May, 2016.

(Agenda continued from break)

- Report on status of city owned property monitored by Landmarks Commission (Blackmer/Oberle)

Discussion focused on the listing of city owned property and how to verify the status of each item with particular attention paid to the paintings by Leon Pescheret etchings. Blackmer has contacted the Whitewater Historical Society (WHS) to inquire about any Pescheret paintings in its collection. The paintings held by the WHS are owned by them and not by the city. WHS is interested at a future date to co-exhibiting with the Landmarks Commission a program on Pescheret. Blackmer and Oberle met with the director of the Irvin Young Library and learned that the library has 39 paintings, all owned by the city. These paintings are in need of appropriate, archival preservation and digital scanning. Discussion ensued. It was noticed that city ordinance the Commission is responsible for the documentation and cataloging of all city, historical property.

- Publicity release regarding Landmarks plaques/McDarison project
Publicity will be determined at a future meeting. A possible reception has been planned for some time in May, 2016.

Future Agenda Items

- An educational retreat for Commission members in November
- Complete the nomination of the city water tower
- Report on city owned property

Good of the Order

Blackmer enjoined the members to thank McDarison for all of the work she has completed on the signage project.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Blackmer at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Helmick, Secretary