



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, City Manager's Conference Room, 2nd Floor
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

***Amended Agenda as of 9:30 a.m. April 19, 2016. The following is added to the agenda:
Commission action regarding Landmark tile project.**

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Present: Pat Blackmer, Kori Oberle, Dan Richardson, Patrick Singer, Richard Helmick (Haselow arrived at 6:06 PM.) (Kienbaum arrived at 6:08 PM)
Absent: None
Staff present: (Alan Luckett arrived at 6:05 PM.)
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Oberle/Richardson to approve the amended agenda as published.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Richardson, Singer, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2016
MSC Singer/Oberle to approve the minutes as posted.
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Richardson, Singer, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, May 5, 2016 - 6:00 PM
The next meeting will be held in the City Manager's Conference Room on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM.
- 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

- Report on City Council Representative to the Landmarks Commission (Singer)
Singer reported that he will be the council representative for the next year.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve (Helmick/Oberle)
The Friends will meet on Monday, May 2, for their first annual meeting. Officers will be nominated and elected. Rob Nurre will address the group. The title of his talk is “Effigy Mounds, Works of Art.” The program will be a free and start at 6:30 PM.
- Birge Fountain Report (Lockett)
Jim Allan has been appointed City Council representative to the Birge Fountain Committee. This will mean there will be one seat vacant on the Committee. Chuck Nass is looking into putting a new liner in the lower basin. Painting of the fountain will not be scheduled until warmer weather. Blackmer noted that the minutes of the Birge Fountain Committee reported that painting has been needed for the past three years. She emphasized that something needs to be done. This will be placed on the Commission’s agenda at the next meeting.
- Report on status of city owned property monitored by Landmarks Commission (Blackmer)
Blackmer were able to locate the original cherubs and move them to the basement of the White Building. Thank you goes to the Coburn Company which had been storing them. There are four, original cherubs. They are now safe-guarded on city property.
- Report on progress of Taylor McDarison’s tile project (Helmick/Blackmer)
Blackmer and Helmick met with McDarison at her studio on Monday. Three tiles are completed. Four tiles that she had tried to complete are cracked beyond repair. The rest have not been completed. At present, she would have to remake 10 tiles. Originally, the tiles should have been completed in May, 2015. She was granted two additional extensions to May, 2016. She has asked for another extension, wanting to put the project on hold until after her graduation date in December, 2016. When asked, she was unable to give a suggested completion date in 2017. She also asked for an additional \$300 in advance in order to rent studio space after December, 2016. In further remarks, McDarison reported that her mentor, Dr. Frame, withdrew from the project last November. Dr. Frame originally presented the project to the Landmarks Commission and vouched for its viability.
- Progress on library display for Preservation/Archeological Month (May) (Oberle/Helmick/Lockett)
Lockett displayed the background map he would like to have in the display - Scott Weberpal a large 41 x 31 inch historical, 1870, map of the city printed by Scott Weberpal. Lockett also showed other photos he will use in the display. The Commission was reminded that the theme title will be “Whitewater, Then and Now.” Oberle had photos of some pictures that can be used as well. Oberle also gave Lockett some additional information provided to her by Shirley Hapka from the Irvin Young Library. Installation of materials in the display window is temporarily scheduled for May 2.

Unfinished Business

- Continue discussion and prioritize items on which the Landmarks Commission should focus over the next five years
Blackmer believes that the Commission is doing a good job, focusing on issues pertinent to the guidelines set forth in the city’s ordinance. Blackmer continued by saying the Commission needs

to continue to look for structures in the city that need to be saved, particularly the downtown, historic district. She would like to see more done with educational outreach to all the schools in Walworth County. Oberle mentioned that there is a program within the UW-Whitewater Department of History, the UW-Whitewater Public History Internship, which could benefit the Commission's work. She thought there might be an intern that would be able to develop an outreach plan and will contact the department to see what can be done. Haselow mentioned that public school field trips to the EMP have several obstacles. Singer liked the idea of developing a comprehensive program that could promote several of the positive structures in Whitewater. Luckett added that there are a variety of digital resources that could give information to interested people as they walk through the city.

- Mounds Preserve signage project update (Oberle/Kienbaum)

The subcommittee is waiting for the city to decide that the ground will be firm enough to support the moving of the boulders without damaging any catalogued ground.

- Officer slate for 2016/2017

Blackmer noted that elections will be done in May. Present officers agreed to continue to serve for another year.

- ***Commission action regarding Landmark tile project.**

It was suggested that action be postponed until the next Commission meeting. Prior to then, additional information will be sought from the city attorney. Singer will talk with the city attorney to see what options are available.

MSC Oberle/Haselow to postpone any decision regarding the tile project until May 5.

Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Richardson, Singer, Helmick, Haselow, Kienbaum

Nays: None

Abstain: None

New Business

- Discussion and possible action on site of brickyard at north end of Jefferson Street (Kienbaum/Oberle)

Oberle gave Kienbaum two photos by Fran Achen depicting the brickyard kilns. A portion of the land has been given to the Park and Rec program for use as a park. She suggested that some recognition be done to mark the site as a historical site to the city. Kienbaum remarked on the kiln foundations that are buried at the site.

MSC Oberle/Singer the Landmarks Commission recommend to the Park and Rec Board consider the name Brick Yard Park in naming the park.

Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Richardson, Singer, Helmick, Haselow, Kienbaum

Nays: None

Abstain: None

- Welcome to reappointed/new commissioners

Blackmer welcomed Patrick Singer as the council's representative and recognized and thanked Richardson and Kienbaum for continuing their service to the Commission.

- Budget request for Landmarks Commission

Luckett explained to Blackmer why the Commission should not have a line item in the city budget. Many of our actions involve other departments where money could be obtained. Some programs can be financed through the general fund with city approval. Oberle questioned how future members of the Commission could account for money it spent. Oberle suggested that

Commission members review past January minutes to help prepare for specific budget item suggestions.

- Annual Report to City Council

Blackmer passed out the report she has prepared. This report will also be submitted to the State Historical Society and the National Park Service. She asked commissioners to review it and respond to her with any suggestions before the next city council meeting.

- Individual Commission members action plan for May/June

Review the January minutes for specific budgetary items

Additions to the brochure

The reception for the plaques will be cancelled.

Future Agenda Items

Taking of Commission minutes through digital equipment

Identify specific budget items for Landmarks Commission

Repairing the interactive map on the city web site

Birge Fountain maintenance

Good of the Order

- Blackmer reported that the Commission received nice publicity on the naming of the water tower as a landmark. Several media outlets recognized the event.
- Oberle reported that the Fort Atkinson's Landmarks Commission has invited everyone to a program on historical preservation to be held on Saturday, May 21, at the Hoard historical Museum in Fort Atkinson.
- Richardson will be contacting Walworth County GIS regarding LIDAR.

Adjournment

Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted

R. Helmick, secretary