



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

AGENDA

Thursday, February 2, 2017 – 6:00 PM

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

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call

Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 5:54 PM.

Present: Patricia Blackmer, Kori Oberle, Suzanne Haselow, Ken Kienbaum, Daniel Richardson, Patrick Singer, Richard Helmick

Absent: None

Staff present: None

Guests: Charlotte Haselow

- Approval of Agenda

MSC Oberle/Richardson to approve the agenda as posted.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

- Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2017

Seeing there were no additions or corrections, Blackmer approved the minutes as posted.

- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, March 2, 2017- 6:00 PM

The next meeting of the Landmarks Commission will be held Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the city manager's conference room, 2nd floor, city hall. Prior to the meeting, there will be a short meeting on the Birge Fountain.

- 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

Birge Fountain Report (Oberle, chair of subcommittee)

The subcommittee met on Jan. 12. At the meeting, a list of items that the conservator should address was developed. The list was forwarded to Cameron Clapper as well as Chuck Nass for their approval. Both agreed to the list as presented. Additionally, Blackmer has contacted Dr. Roy Nosek to see if he would be willing to relate his knowledge of the Birge Fountain. Oberle contacted the conservator, Tom Podnar, regarding the list developed by the subcommittee. Mr. Podnar was familiar with the type of fountain the city has and requested to have more information. Oberle is in the process of doing this.

City acquisition of the historical machine parts of the old Main St. mill planning meeting (Smith)

Michelle Smith, city clerk, was not present. However, she emailed her report to the Commission. Her report:

The Old Stone Mill turbine parts have been obtained by Downtown Whitewater. As Chuck Nass told the Landmarks Commission, they are stored at the Marshall Farm (city-owned property) on Howard Road. The parts are very dirty and need cleaning and possible repair as they have been out in the elements for a long, long time.

It is CMP's (Chris Muntz Pritchard) understanding that when the E. Main Street project was engineered, that some part of the Old Mill was intentionally left in place.

The hope is to develop some sort of arrangement where the parts can be cleaned and repaired as necessary. (You may recall that Chuck said pursuit of local craftspeople may occur).

CMP is interested in contacting the City's engineer to see whether power can actually be created. CMP would like to meet with you (Pat) as chair of the Landmarks Commission, to make sure everyone is on board with the proposed project.

I am still not clear as to who will design the layout, or who is in charge of the project, but I am guessing that direction will come from the City Manager.

Nothing is being planned for this project this Winter. It sounds like nothing will happen until it gets warm.

CMP has indicated she would like to meet with you. I would suggest that Chuck be included.

Report on Whitewater Historic Homes Photo Project (Richardson)

No report.

Meetings of the Burial Preservation Acts Committee (Helmick/Oberle)

There has been no word if the WI Legislature will schedule this item for action.

Walton Oaks and Moksnes House Nominations as Local Landmarks (Blackmer)

The nomination for Walton Oakes is being developed. Mrs. Walton will be unavailable for more information until late March.

The Moksnes report has been completed. Oberle suggested that the commission needs to review the report in order to comment on it. The report is quite lengthy and would not easily be digitally distributed. Blackmer said she could email the first section of the report to the Commissioners. Singer suggested that Michelle could scan the entire document and send it to the commissioners. All agreed. Blackmer will forward the documents to Smith,

□ Brickyard Park (Brickyard Historic Area) (Kienbaum)

No report.

Blackmer remarked that at a previous meeting, the Commission agreed not to nominate the park as a historic landmark. Educational signage would be developed and installed with the Park Board's permission. Oberle added that the first step would be for the Parks Board to name the park. Singer added that the CDA has a role in the property as well. The city and the CDA may need to clean up ownership of the land. Ultimately, the city owns title of the property.

□ Effigy Mounds Preserve Report (Oberle/Helmick)

Oberle has been asked by the Senior Center to provide a program and guided tour in May. Hopefully, before the March meeting, the Commission will have learned if the grant has been approved by the state.

□ Proposed library expansion project/Mercy Health Systems (Oberle/Blackmer)

Blackmer and Oberle meeting with Clapper, scheduled for this morning, had to be postponed until Friday. Blackmer has been in contact with Jen Hall, Mercy Health System. Ms. Hall had little information regarding the project and was unaware of the Landmark status of the local health clinic. Blackmer emailed Ms. Hall the city ordinance regarding landmarks and complemented her for Mercy's diligence in taking care of the building.

This afternoon, the developer called Blackmer regarding the project. Blackmer believes that the developer was completely unaware of the Landmark status of the building or of the city ordinance. He is willing to meet with the Commission to further discuss the project. He stated that no site has been determined for the project. He did say that the development needs to be at the university's front door in order for it to be successful. He would like to discuss adaptive reuse ideas should the J.J. Starin site be selected.

Blackmer will email the developer the city's ordinance pertaining to landmarks. Oberle commented that any meeting with the developer will need to be posted. Singer suggested if the developer does come to talk with the Landmarks Commission, the Library Board should be there as well in order to facilitate information among all parties.

Oberle requested the commission give her some direction to bring to Clapper at tomorrow's meeting. Singer suggested that Clapper be sure communication needs to be carefully relayed to all parties as the project moves forward. Oberle again asked for specific direction. It was decided that she discuss the project with Clapper, as it currently is known, specifically in relation to the J.J. Starin site, and its status as a city landmark. Richardson added that the impact on the entire neighborhood should also be discussed.

□ Inventory tags for city owned historical property (Haselow)

The tags have not been ordered as yet. The material and a font have been chosen. Haselow questioned the size of the tag might not fit some of the smaller items. It was decided not to add the city's logo on the tag. Adding a number system would add cost. Haselow suggested we purchase a small stamp set or engraving pen and write the numbers on the tag. Oberle said that the numbers are critical in order to keep track of the items. Richardson said for continuity and uniformity that the manufacturer does them. The city clerk can provide Haselow with the tax number and help with purchasing process.

Unfinished Business

□ Haselow's Project regarding Local Landmarks introduced to public, report on venue, date, etc.

No report at this time. A meeting is planned for this Tuesday.

- Approval of thank you letter to Local Landmark owners
Blackmer has prepared a thank you letter. Unfortunately, the city computer system was unable to display it for the Commissioners' review.

New Business

- Revision of City Landmarks Ordinance regarding decertification/demolition committee formed for ordinance revision

A meeting has not occurred yet. One is being developed.

- Subcommittee for planning a Landmarks Commission public education program

Blackmer said the commission needs to continue to develop programs for public instruction. Oberle has begun to organize Richardson's photos to make them more easily accessible for power point programs. She also has been developing a program describing the process a property undergoes in becoming a landmark.

- Englebretson-Dorr (Victoria on Main) miniature house

The house has been donated to the city and is now city property. It is being temporarily stored until a suitable home can be found for it. Oberle asked what due diligence is required from the Commission regarding this property. It was decided that the Commission should get specific information on the house, its builder, history and other pertinent details along with photographs for documentation.

- Individual Commission members' action plan for March

Richardson: will take more photographs of local landmarks

Blackmer: continue to work on the Walton Oaks nomination; email the developer the

Landmark ordinance and suggest if he does meet with the commission that the library board be included as well; disseminate the Thank you letter draft to Commissioners

Oberle: Birge Fountain; meet with Clapper; monitor legislative action on the Burial Act;

continue to develop public education projects; wait for state approval of EMP grant.

Haselow: order property tags; meet with Oberle to discuss public education project

Helmick: complete February minutes

Future Agenda Items

Flat Iron Park as a local landmark

401 West Center Street property

The property on the corner of Center and Fremont Streets

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Blackmer at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Helmick, Secretary pro tem