

## MINUTES OF THE WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

March 17, 2017

A special meeting of the Landmarks Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Blackmer. MEMBERS PRESENT: Haselow, Oberle, Helmick, Richardson, Blackmer, Kienbaum. OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Smith, Jim Allen. MEMBERS ABSENT: Singer.

**BIRGE FOUNTAIN DISCUSSION.** Landmarks Commissioner Oberle presented a timeline of Birge Fountain activities. As noted in prior meetings, the Landmarks Commission is concerned about the declining condition of the fountain. The Birge Fountain meeting scheduled for March 2, 2017 was cancelled due to lack of quorum available. Since that time, City Manager Clapper and Birge Fountain Chair Lockett have been contacted and asked to reschedule the meeting. Clapper indicated he would attempt to have the Birge Fountain meeting scheduled for April 6.

Oberle clarified that the Landmarks Commission is asking for a summary for assessment, and are NOT asking for treatment. The request is to have the conservator study the fountain, assess the condition, and define the treatment plan. Oberle and Blackmer indicated that the intent of this meeting is to plan for the Council meeting, and to determine which items should go into the Council packet backup materials. Much discussion regarding the wear, the construction of the fountain occurred.

Two members of the Birge Fountain Committee also serve on the Landmarks Commission (Kienbaum, Richardson). Birge Fountain Committee Treasurer, James Allen was present at the meeting. Several members of the Landmarks Commission were concerned that the Birge Fountain Committee has not met and that some maintenance items are not being handled. Birge Fountain Commission member Allen disagreed, stating that numerous upkeep items have been completed and the fountain has been maintained. The Landmarks Commissioners asked Allen to encourage the Birge Fountain Committee to meet and hopefully approve the expenditure for the study.

Landmarks Commissioners expressed concern that if the conservator agreement is not approved soon, the conservator will be too busy and not be able to complete the work this year. Discussion regarding some opinions that Landmarks has overstepped their bounds occurred. Landmarks members expressed frustration over the lack of meetings Birge has had.

***It was moved by Oberle and seconded by Helmick that the Landmarks Commission request mediation through the city administrative offices to start a productive solution to the disagreement between the two Boards. The request is to have the chosen mediator not be a commission member and not be a Councilmember. AYES: Blackmer, Oberle, Helmick, Kienbaum, Richardson, Haselow. NOES: None. ABSENT: Singer.***

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Secretary