



## Whitewater Landmarks Commission

### AGENDA

Thursday, April 6, 2017 – 6:00 PM

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

**\* Amended Agenda as of 11:15 a.m. April 5, 2017 New Business: Resignation of Landmarks Commissioner.**

#### Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call

Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: Patricia Blackmer, Dan Richardson, Suzanne Haselow, Ken Kienbaum, Richard Helmick, Patrick Singer

Absent: None

Staff present: None

Guests: Larry Kachel

- Approval of Agenda

MSC Singer/Haselow to approve the agenda as printed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

- Approval of Minutes –March 2, 2017

MSC Kienbaum/Blackmer to approve the minutes as posted.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

- Set date and time of next meeting – May 4, 2017

The next meeting of the Commission will be on May 4, 2017 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**

- City acquisition of the historical machine parts of the Old Stone Mill (Blackmer)  
Blackmer took photos of the turbine parts and had them identified as the parts from the old stone mill. She also has a file on the emails regarding procedures and happenings so far. There are no decisions at present on how to display the parts.
- Report on Whitewater Historic Homes Photo Project (Richardson)  
No additional photos have been taken. The Ambrose House is next on the list.
- Status of the Burial Preservation Acts Committee (Helmick/Oberle)  
No report.
- Walton Oaks as a local landmark (Blackmer)  
Blackmer will be arranging a meeting with the property owner to discuss details.
- Brickyard Park (Brickyard Historic Area) report (Kienbaum)  
No report.
- Effigy Mounds Preserve (Oberle/Helmick)  
The friends met.
- Inventory tags for city owned historical property (Haselow)  
Haselow has a conference call scheduled for this Monday to finalize everything. The quote is effective for 60 days.
- Proposed Library Expansion Project (Blackmer/Oberle)  
Singer reported that the City Council will not be meeting in closed session tonight regarding the project. From the council's perspective, much more planning needs to be done before the city will be moving forward.  
  
(Singer left the meeting at 6:15 in order to be present at the Common Council meeting.)  
Larry Katchel commented that he would lend his personal support to the Landmarks Commission in questioning the J.J. Starin site for a possible new library.
- "Hello Building, How Old Are You" June project with library (Oberle/Haselow)  
Kori Oberle has indicated that she will continue to be involved in the plan.
- 401 Center Street as a Local Landmark (Helmick)  
Information is still being collected.
- 222 Center Street as a Local Landmark (Haselow)  
No report.

## **Unfinished Business**

- Public education regarding Local Landmark status and designation of Local Landmark status for neighborhoods  
A committee has been working on this project. It needs to meet some more to determine how best to proceed.
- Revision of City Landmarks Ordinance regarding decertification/demolition ordinance  
No report. Kienbaum volunteered to work with the City Clerk on clarifying language in this section.
- Thank you letters to Local Landmark owners  
The letters will be going out so they will be received during National Historical Preservation Month.

- Moksnes/Epps house nomination public hearing May 4, 2017

The hearing has been scheduled to be held in the council chambers at 6:00 PM.

- Continued discussion and action regarding conservation of the Birge Fountain

Blackmer reported that the Birge Fountain Committee voted in favor of the proposal put forth by Landmarks to have an assessment done by McKay. Funds for the assessment have been provided through two different, Birge Fountain accounts. The chair of the Birge Fountain Committee, Alan Lockett, will now expedite the project by contacting McKay and seeking a purchase order from the city.

Blackmer suggested that a project manager be appointed who is knowledgeable about historic preservation and not associated with the Birge Fountain Committee or the Landmarks Commission.

The minutes from the special Landmarks meeting held on March 21 have not been presented for passage.

### **New Business**

- Individual commission members projects for April

Blackmer: continue with the Walton Woods nomination, continue to monitor the Birge Fountain assessment project.

Richardson: Photos of the Ambrose House

Kienbaum: Brickyard Park

Haselow: inventory tags

Helmick: continue research on 401 Center Street, continue monitoring status of the Burial Preservation Acts Subcommittee; Friends of the Effigy Mounds activities; complete meeting minutes.

- Historic Preservation (Birge Fountain/Green Shutters) subcommittee to develop and install a display at the city library for the month of May, National Historic and Preservation Month.
- Subcommittee volunteers to work on reprint of brochure to include new Local Landmarks  
Everything is in place except for the possible inclusion of the Moksnes House information.
- Resignation of Landmarks Commissioner  
Kori Oberle has recently resigned from the Landmarks Commission. Blackmer read her resignation letter to be included in the minutes (attached).

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Election of officers
- Recruitment of landmark commissioners

### **Adjournment**

Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Helmick, secretary pro tem

## Kori Oberle

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Monday, April 3, 2017

Michele Smith, City Clerk  
City of Whitewater  
Whitewater, WI

Michele,

Please consider this letter my formal resignation as a volunteer on both the Landmarks Commission and the Parks Board, effective immediately. Please also remove my recent application to serve on the Birge Fountain Committee.

Please know that it has always been a pleasure to serve on the Parks Board under the leadership of both Matt Amundson and Michelle Dujardin. My resignation is in no way related to working with them.

However, it has become apparent over the past several months, as a Landmarks Commission member, that my experience and knowledge as a recently retired professional in the field of cultural resource management is not helpful to the City's needs. While I regret that I am leaving my fellow Landmarks volunteers, I am saddened that not all of the City's staff and elected officials value the hard work that some of the City's volunteers donate on behalf of the better good. That some employees and elected officials are allowed to continue to do so, despite legitimate reports of dysfunction, is unfortunate.

Trying to work alongside others to care for our community's cultural heritage should not be so difficult or so unpleasant. By resigning, I am rescuing myself from this dysfunction.

These questions remain to be answered: what is the Landmarks Commission's responsibility when the Birge Fountain Committee is not accomplishing the maintenance and preservation of the Birge Fountain? When two members of the Fountain Committee report to Landmarks their concerns about the deteriorating condition of the fountain and the Fountain Committee's irregular and infrequent meetings, what is the appropriate, acceptable, and productive way for the Commission to respond?

Sincerely,

*Kori K. Oberle*

Kori Oberle  
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cc. Cameron Clapper, City Manager  
Patricia Blackmer, Landmarks Commission Chair  
Michelle Dujardin, Interim Parks & Recreation Director