



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

Thursday June 1, 2017 – 6:00 PM

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

Minutes

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
Present: Patricia Blackmer, Ken Kienbaum, Dan Richardson, Chris Grady, Richard Helmick
Staff present: Michelle Smith (left at 6:20 PM)
Absent: Susanne Haselow
Guests: None
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Richardson/Kienbaum to approve the agenda as amended to present the election of officers at the beginning of the meeting.
Ayes: Blackmer, Kienbaum, Richardson, Grady, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
- Election of officers.
Kienbaum/Helmick MSC to nominate Blackmer as president. No other nominations were presented.
Blackmer/Richardson MSC to nominate Helmick as vice chairman. No other nominations were presented.
Ayes: Blackmer, Kienbaum, Richardson, Grady, Helmick
Nays: None
Abstain: None
(Haselow arrived at 6:28PM.)
- Approval of Minutes –May 4, 2017
MSC Richardson/Kienbaum to approve the minutes as corrected.
Ayes: Blackmer, Haselow, Kienbaum, Richardson, Grady, Helmick
Nays: None

Abstain: None

- Set date and time of next meeting – July 6, 2017
The next meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission will be held on July 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the city council's chambers.
- 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.
- Review of Intent of the Landmarks Commission
Blackmer passed out copies of city ordinance 17.04 to review with the commission. Blackmer discussed 17.040.010 emphasizing the "Intent" section for the commissioners. Blackmer individually asked those present if they agreed to the provisions set forth. All members individually agreed.

Reports

- Report on Whitewater Historic Homes Photo Project (Richardson)
Richardson asked that the term used to refer to the project be Historic Homes and Landmarks. He said he would be doing some spring time photos of Walton Oaks, the city armory, and the Moksnes/Epps house.
- Status of the Burial Preservation Acts Committee (Helmick)
Helmick distributed a report from two the Burial Preservation Legislative Committee which outlined what was considered for change and where to find a complete copy of the finished proposal. At this time, it is doubtful that the report will be forwarded for a vote.
- Brickyard Park (Brickyard Historic Area) report (Kienbaum)
No report at this time. The new Park and Rec Director will not begin until this Monday. He will need to be contacted regarding future developments concerning the park.
- Effigy Mounds Preserve (Helmick)
 - An educational presentation on the Effigy Mounds Preserve was made at the Whitewater Senior Center on 5-17-17 with 30 persons in attendance. This was followed by a tour of the Preserve on 5-25-17 with 25 persons in attendance. At this time, attendees were also given a presentation of the display garden by the Preserve's sign.
 - There has been some serious damage at the Preserve from fallen trees due to the recent storm that struck the city. Some of the burial mounds were damaged. FOTEM has indicated that it will contact Amy Rosebrough, archeologist for the State Historical Society, Preservation Division, to receive information and advice on how to best remove the trees and repair whatever damage is found.
 - There will be a rededication of the Man Mound near Baraboo, WI on Sunday, 7-29-17 with additional signage announcing the Man Mounds election to the National Historic Places. More information will be disseminated as it is received.
- Inventory tags for city owned historical property (Haselow)
The tags have not been ordered. The final quote has not been received yet. Once received, Suzanne will present the bill to the city clerk for payment.
- Proposed Library Expansion Project (Blackmer/Helmick)
The Library Board presented an informational forum on 5-27-17 at the library to a large group of interested attendees. The presentation focused on the need for the library to have more space and

updated infrastructures. Information on public/private building projects was also presented. Several concerns were raised by those in attendance in opposition over the use of the landmarked building currently owned by the Mercy Health Center (the J.J. Starin property) as a possible site for any new development. A petition against the use of this property was presented by Carol Cartwright representing the Florence Basset Club, part of the Basset House Women's Club. Blackmer noted that this is the only site being considered by the developer at this time. As such, the commission needs to be vigilant and prepared to oppose any demolition of the property. Blackmer added that the majority of those in the audience were in favor of a library addition but not at the site of the current Mercy Health property.

- “Hello Building, How Old Are You” June project with library (Blackmer)
The event is scheduled for June 15 from 3:30 – 4:30 PM. It is a family event cosponsored by the city library and the Landmarks Commission. Information on this event can be found on the city's library web site. Blackmer asked commission members to be there to assist.
- 222 Center Street as a Local Landmark (Haselow)
No report at this time. Suzanne will have more time towards the end of July to work on this.
- Birge Fountain Conservation (Richardson/Kienbaum/Helmick/Blackmer)
A conservator was hired to come to Whitewater to do the initial investigation and take photographs. Kienbaum reported that the conservator noted the following:
 - The pumps need to be repaired and updated with new valves that can be more easily regulated in order to present a better flow.
 - If large repairs are needed, the firm could disassemble the fountain and ship it to their facilities in Ohio for repair if needed.
 - The water should be completely changed once or twice a month to lessen deterioration and facilitate cleaning.
 - Water softener is not necessarily needed.
 - The fountain needs to be covered in winter.

A more complete report will be sent to the city manager. Blackmer noted that not only would repairs be suggested but also a long term preservation plan including possible contractors and materials that could be used. Richardson added that the firm has a number of specialists who will review the status of the fountain and contribute to the plan. Richardson also said the conservator said the lighting of the fountain should be changed to add to better illumination and protection against vandals. The lights need to be removed from the basin and replaced, possibly on poles outside of the fountain.

- Library Display case install for Historic Preservation/Archeological month (Blackmer)
The display highlighted two landmarked properties that needed extra vigilance to provide for ongoing maintenance and protection. The properties were the J.J. Starin House (currently owned by Mercy Health) and the Birge Fountain. The materials in the display case have been removed. Blackmer reported that the case is again reserved for the Landmarks use next May during national Historic Preservation month.

Grady said that there was some information presented in the display that suggested the J.J. Starin building was going to be demolished. This is not true. He agreed that the building has been threatened to be demolished but there is no plan as yet to demolish it. Blackmer doubted if there was any mention that the property was to be destroyed. She indicated that it “may be threatened.” Haselow asked Grady to be clearer in his report.

Unfinished Business

- Public education regarding Local Landmark status and designation of Local Landmark status for neighborhoods (continuing project to develop power point)
Work is continuing.
- Thank you letters to Local Landmark owners
The letters were sent in May.
- Subcommittee volunteers to work on reprint of brochure (Moksnes/Epps House and Walton Oaks)
Richardson is composing the information for the brochure.
- Walton Oaks as a Local Landmark site
Blackmer handed out a rough draft on the nomination for preliminary review by the commissioners. She asked members to come to the July meeting with any suggestions or additions. Grady asked if this property felled under the definition of the Landmarks ordinance. Blackmer referred him to the “Statement of Significance” in the nomination form as well as language present in Chapter 17 of the city’s ordinance.. Grady contended that adding this property dilutes the criteria of what a landmark is. He suggested that land is not historical unless something historic has happened on it. Blackmer disagreed. Haselow argued that documentation suggests that the property is historic by the presence of all the past documentation attached to it. Richardson argued that this discussion is a waste of our time. Discussion should be presented at the actual nomination.
- Recruitment of Landmarks Commission members
Any suggestions for a new member should be given to Blackmer.
- Election of Officers
See above.

New Business

- Individual commission members projects for June
Richardson will continue on the photo project, assist at the library program
Kienbaum - brickyard
Haselow - inventory tags
Helmick - complete the minutes; FOTEM contact Amy Rosebrough, assist at the library program
Blackmer Walton oaks, storm damage at EMP, assist at the library program
Grady – contact the city attorney regarding liability issues to boards and individual members
- Landmarks Commission change of regularly scheduled meeting time
MSC Grady/Haselow to change the meeting time from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM.
Ayes: Grady, Helmick, Haselow
Nays: Richardson, Blackmer, Kienbaum
Abstain: None
The motion did not carry.
- Joint Landmarks Commission/Birge Fountain meeting

The meeting was scheduled for June 14 at 6:00 PM. At present, the meeting is on hold and may be changed.

- **Review of Open Meetings and Open Records Laws.**

Blackmer reported that Grady had requested this item with the city clerk. She asked him that he should inform the chair of any agenda suggestions in the future. She distributed WI Chapter VII regarding Open Government Laws. Grady suggested that a walking meeting may have happened with the commission. As an example, he claimed that there were at least 4 members of the commission that discussed among themselves participation in the protest rally in front of the JJ Starin building. Blackmer said that Landmarks had nothing to do organizing the rally. Grady wants the commission to be careful.

Future Agenda Items

- Review for Open Meeting law
- City insurance for volunteers doing work for the city

Adjournment

Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

R. Helmick, secretary protem