



## Whitewater Landmarks Commission

### MINUTES

Thursday, January 6, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, Cravath Lakefront Room  
312 W Whitewater St, Whitewater, WI 53190

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

- Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Present: Patricia Blackmer, Ben Adamitus, Ken Kienbaum, Dan Richardson, Lukas Schreiber

Absent: Karen Coburn

Staff present: Olivia Pratt

Others: None

#### **Approval of Agenda**

- Schreiber made a motion to approve the Agenda for this meeting, seconded by Adamitus.

Ayes: Blackmer, Adamitus, Kienbaum, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Schreiber made a motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2021 with a second by Adamitus.

Ayes: Blackmer, Adamitus, Kienbaum, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**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.

**Set date of next meeting** – February 3, 2022 at 6pm

## Reports

- Effigy Mounds Preserve – Report on Progress: City Manager’s Plan, Update on UWW Anthropology Department Request

### City Manager’s Report:

- Chairperson Blackmer spoke with Parks and Rec Coordinator Eric Boettcher before the holidays and was told that things were going to start happening at Effigy Mounds in the near future. Boettcher told Blackmer he would check to see if Midwest Prairie can do spot treatment rather than spray treatment so the herbicide does not affect the native species.

### Anthropology Department:

- Dylan Ledwith, who originally proposed a project to the Landmarks Commission, has graduated, attempted to contact his professor instead but was unable to reach him. Kori Oberle, former Landmarks Commission member, has worked with Professor Killoran in the past and reached out to him on the Commission’s behalf. Killoran stated that he is willing to work with the Commission after his time off.

- Update on Birge Fountain Committee

The ordinance was present to Common Council and repealed, and they did not vote to have a second reading. That ordinance is still in effect until the change is printed in the Whitewater Register. Chairperson Blackmer had a meeting with City Manager Cameron Clapper and Public Works Director Brad Marquardt, in which they talked about the Birge Fountain and the Landmark Commission’s role going forward. Now that there is no Birge Fountain Committee, the Public Works department will be in charge of when the fountain opens and closes and take care of the maintenance of the fountain. There is also a Birge Fountain Restoration Fund that is separate from the City’s budget for the fountain. Steve Hatton indicated that Jim Allen, former Chair and Treasurer of the Birge Fountain Committee, presented him with a check which was "a little over \$10,000" prior to the Christmas holiday from the Birge Fountain Restoration Account which was at the First Citizens State Bank. The money has always been specified for the restoration of the fountain and came from private donations. At Blackmer's request, Hatton indicated that he would designate that money for restoration so as not to co-mingle the funds with the city funds which are used for maintenance of the fountain. This will allow for future fundraising efforts which will solicit donations from citizens to be tax deductible.

- Walton Oaks Park – Maintenance Estimates and Strategies, Midwest Prairie, Tall Grass, Creative Edge

Chairperson Blackmer reached out to Eric Boettcher to reach out to Creative Edge as they have previously done spot treatment on invasive species.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Commission approval of letter to Delta Chi Fraternity regarding building restoration  
The Delta Chi fraternity has been restoring their building and plan to continue doing so keeping the same color scheme. This building stands out as a local landmark because it used to have a twin house that no longer exists. Since this house is a surviving historic home in the City of Whitewater, and Delta Chi alumni stepped up to take care of the restoration, it is important to the Landmarks Commission to recognize the efforts citizens are making in the historic district. The letter that will be sent from the Commission to the fraternity is attached.
- Continued postings on TheClio – White Memorial Library  
All Whitewater postings are up to date as of this meeting. The next venture will be to add the White Memorial Library.

### **New Business**

- Possible UWW student application for commission membership  
The new president of the Anthropology Department has expressed interest in joining the Landmarks Commission. She has been given all the information on how to apply, but is likely on break from school and has not applied as of this meeting.
- Public education: Theme for library display case May exhibit  
The display case is reserved, so the Commission now needs ideas on what to display. Suggestions include the timeline of a specific building becoming a local landmark (the armory, for example) or information about historic city-owned property. More discussion will take place at future Landmarks Commission meetings.
- Heritage Day Tour (planning for 2023 Birge Fountain 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Postponed until next meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Possible UWW student application
- Library display case ideas
- Update on City Manager's Plan, Birge Fountain Committee, and Walton Oaks Park
- Whitewater Heritage Day at Birge Fountain for 2023 (Kori)

### **Adjournment**

- Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Olivia Pratt, Staff Representative



## Whitewater Landmarks Commission

January 5, 2022

Max Servais, President  
Delta Chi Fraternity  
707 W. Main Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190

Dear Max, Delta Chi Fraternity Members and Alumni:

The City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to you as the owners of the property at 707 W. Main Street in our community. Your recent restoration of the fraternity house is an asset to our historic district.

The Whitewater Common Council approved an ordinance that created the Whitewater Landmarks Commission in 1982. The purpose of this Commission is the enhancement, perpetuation and protection of property of historical interest or value. We currently have (27) locally designated landmarks of which (15) are current or former residences. While your residence does not have the designation of a local landmark, we are most pleased that you are caring for it as such.

Your dedication to the preservation and maintenance of your residence allows for our community to continue its rich heritage. It also enhances the charm and beauty of our city for our residents and visitors. For this, we are most grateful!

Sincerely,

City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission  
Pat Blackmer, Chairman  
Ben Adamitus  
Karen Coburn  
Ken Kienbaum

Dan Richardson  
Lukas Schreiber, City Council Representative  
Olivia Pratt, City of Whitewater GIS Technician