

**City of Whitewater
Whitewater Landmarks Commission
Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2022—6:00 PM
Municipal Building, Cravath Lakefront Room
312 West Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Richardson was asked to take minutes. Appreciation was expressed to staff person Pam Cronce for assisting in the Virtual Meeting set up.

Present: Patricia Blackmer, Ben Adamitus, Karen Coburn, Ken Kienbaum, Dan Richardson

Absent: Lukas Schreiber

Staff Person: None

Others: None

Approval of Agenda:

*Coburn made a motion to approve the Agenda for this meeting, seconded by Adamitus.

Ayes: Blackmer, Adamitus, Coburn, Richardson

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kienbaum, Schreiber

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

*Coburn made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting with a second by Adamitus.

Ayes: Coburn, Adamitus, Richardson, Blackmer

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Schreiber, Kienbaum

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Set date of next meeting: April 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM

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 Co0mmission discussed that particular item.

Ken Kienbum arrived at 6:07 PM

Reports:

*Update on Birge fountain, Landmarks Commission oversight:

Chairperson Blackmer reported that all seems to be fine with reference to the status of the Birge Fountain at this time. She reported that there was a request by a citizen passed along to her by Lynn Binnie that the Fountain be lit with yellow and blue lights in support of the Ukranians after the attack on them by Russia. She passed the request along to Brad Marquardt who indicated that it would be a most difficult task to light the Fountain in that manner. The citizen was informed of that and said she understood.

*Update on City Manager's Plan for the Effigy Mounds Preserve:

Chairperson Blackmer reported that Midwest Prairie has been working on the Mounds Preserve by clearing some brush at the south end working toward the north. Two large piles of brush have been accumulated to be burned. They will continue to clear brush and set trails for access that will be useful but not harmful to the mounds. Clearing over the catalogued mounds is being done by hand.

*Walton Oaks Park, Midwest Prairie work completed to date:

Chairperson Blackmer reported that Midwest Prairie is working there and Carl Walker says the Walton Oaks Park is in good shape with much young plant growth. They have mowed with a forestry mower especially in areas of heavy buckthorn growth. They will return to take care of invasives with a spot sprayer allowing for slight re-growth for identification purposes. "Dabbing" invasives rather than spraying may be more appropriate.

Unfinished Business:

*Library Display Case ideas for May (Birge Fountain Preview)

Chairperson Blackmer reported that as a part of the Commission's education mission a display of a time line of the Birge Fountain at the library might be most appropriate for May. Postcards have been pulled and staff will be asked to assist with the display. Adamitus has volunteered to assist with the display.

*Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions Conference:

Chairperson Blackmer reported that the dates of the conference are April 29-30, 2022. It will be both in person and virtual.

*Heritage Day Tour (planning update for 2023):

Chairperson Blackmer reported that the Landmarks Commission will be taking part in the planning of this event. A preliminary planning meeting will be scheduled for April. Downtown Whitewater and the Whitewater Historical Society have been asked to be involved. Kori Oberle has offered to head the committee.

New Business:

*Question raised as to creation of Downtown Historic District/Preservation

*Individual properties potential eligibility for National Register status discussed. The commission was provided with handouts to review.

*Premier Bank building was discussed as a possible landmark. The architecture of the building is of significant importance in considering landmark status.

***Delta Zeta Sorority Request:**

Chairperson Blackmer reported that the Delta Zeta Sorority has requested permission to install a ¾ light door on their house at 601 West Main Street. The door is located at the ramp entrance on the west side of the house and is not visible from the street. A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Adamitus that approval be granted to Delta Zeta Sorority to install a ¾ light storm door per their request. Discussion followed regarding better health and safety, along with energy conservation are good reasons to approve.

Ayes: Keinbaum, Blackmer, Adamitus, Coburn, Richardson

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Schreiber

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Future Agenda Items:

Birge Fountain

Effigy Mounds

Walton Oaks progress

Library Display

Premier Bank nomination

Feed Mill (Kienbaum)

Downtown Historic District

Adjournment: 6:53 PM