

**WHITEWATER LANDMARK COMMISSION
ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES REPORT
(January – December 2020)**

The City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission met 8 times during 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings scheduled for April through June were canceled and resumed virtually for the remainder of the calendar year.

The Commission currently monitors 26 individually listed Local Landmarks as well as the oversight of the National Register's Main Street Historic District, historic city owned property and works in conjunction with the City Parks and Recreation Department, the Birge Fountain Committee and the Whitewater Historical Society. In 2008, the Commission reviewed and accepted the Architectural and Historic Survey of City of Whitewater properties.

In 2020 Landmark Commissioners:

January

The Commission began an investigation into the history of the Whitewater City Waterworks Building as a possible Local Landmark. It was later determined that historic signage of the site would be a better option as opposed to landmark status.

Accepted files from the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library regarding locally landmarked properties and historical buildings in Whitewater.

Continued to review and offer final approval for historic city signage to include signs for the Weinberg Family Cravath Lake Front , the Territorial Oak, the Starin Park Water Tower and the former Brickyard Park which is now the dog park. Funding for the historical signage was provided by the Parks and Recreation budget.

March

The Commission met with the City Parks and Recreation Director, Eric Boettcher regarding maintenance of the Effigy Mounds Preserve and clean-up of recurring storm damage. Kurt Sampson, a certified archeologist registered with the State Historical Society has offered to bring a trained crew to assist with clean-up of the Preserve.

April

Commissioners attended the Wisconsin Archeological Conference virtually.

We received a request for rescission of the Local Landmark status for the Landmark Hotel at 204 W. Main Street from the attorney representing the owner.

We welcomed Gloria Buley who purchased the Hamilton House Bed and Breakfast and informed her of the Landmark status of her house.

May

The Commission worked virtually with the City of Whitewater to issue proclamations honoring both the Wisconsin Historical Preservation Month and the Wisconsin Archeological Month.

The Commission presented an Annual Commission Activities report to the Whitewater City Council.

Letters were sent thanking the owners of Local Landmarks for the continued maintenance of their properties.

July

We renewed the Landmark Commission's membership with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Association and submitted our annual report to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Commission to maintain our Certified Local Government Status.

August

We filed the annual Commission report with the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

We filed the annual Commission report with the National Park Service to maintain Whitewater's Certified Local Government status.

September

Commissioners attended the Wisconsin State Historical Society's virtual conference.

We received permission to begin a nomination of the Everett and Ellen Long House as a Local Landmark.

We partnered with the Walworth County Historical Society developing an online newsletter for elementary aged students regarding the Effigy Mounds Preserve.

October

The Commission contacted the new owners of the Lyman Wight Octagon House welcoming them and sharing the Local Landmarks ordinance with them.

Received permission from the owner of the building where the Prairie Tillers Mural is located to Landmark that mural and proceeded to research the mural with the Arts Alliance.

Chris Munz-Pritchard contacted Jasmine Designs to begin work on redesigning the Effigy Mounds brochure for reprint at a later date. Commission members are providing the historical information needed for the brochure.

The Commission sent a letter to Chief Aaron Rapp and the Whitewater Police Department regarding which properties have Local Landmark status.

A letter was sent to Brad Marquardt, Director of Public Works regarding suggested proactive financial planning for possible major maintenance and repair of the Birge Fountain. The McKay Laboratory report indicated that those issues may need to be addressed within a ten year time span from their initial assessment completed in 2017.

November

We began an investigation on the use of "QR Codes" as a possible way to provide information regarding the Effigy Mounds.

We began the posting of Whitewater's Local Landmarks on "TheClio" website which is educational site providing information on area attractions and places of historical significance.

The Weinberg Family sign was installed at Cravath Lake Front Park.

Ben Adamitus was appointed as a commissioner to Landmarks.

December

The Commission accepted the nomination of the Prairie Tillers Mural as a designated Local Landmark.

The Chairman of the Commission submitted a sub-grant proposal in the amount of \$33,000 to the Wisconsin State Preservation Commission for a professional archeological survey of the Effigy Mounds Preserve.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Whitewater Landmarks Commission is planning to:

apply for a permit from the Wisconsin State Preservation Commission for storm damage clean-up at the Effigy Mounds Preserve.

designate the Everett and Ellen Long House as a Local Landmark.

continue with the posting of Historic Information about the City of Whitewater and its Local Landmarks on "TheClio" website.

provide an educational display of "City Owned Local Landmarks" at the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library to celebrate May as Historic Preservation month.

continue the redesign of the Effigy Mounds Brochure.

continue assisting property owners of Local Landmarks with their efforts regarding restoration of their homes and businesses.

update the inventory of "city owned historic property".