

**WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION
ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES REPORT
(January – December 2016)**

The City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission regularly scheduled meetings met 12 times during 2016. In addition there were three special meetings called to address requests for an in-service regarding the Whitewater Landmarks Ordinance for Commissioners and City Staff, an addition of a garage at the Lyman Wight Octagon House by the Hajewskis' and the replacement of awnings (one with signage) at the White Memorial Building by Arts Alliance President, Linda Long

The Commission currently monitors 22 individually listed Local Landmarks as well as the oversight of the National Register's Main Street Historic District 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 2016 Landmarks Commissioners:

January

Developed and implemented the first phase of a five year strategic plan of action for the Landmarks Commission.

Approved the Starin Park Water Tower as a Local Landmark.

Initiated individual Commission member's monthly action plans.

February

Allowed permission for Melinda Roberts (Wisconsin Historical Markers Website) to use content of the Whitewater Landmarks brochure for inclusion on the website crediting the Commission.

March

Attended "Whitewater Collects" presented by the Whitewater Historical Society at the Cravath Lake Pavilion.

Started a photographic inventory of Whitewater's historic homes which is to continue until all homes have been photographed.

Moved city owned historic property (original Birge Fountain cherubs) from private storage to the basement of the White Memorial Building.

Received the City Parks and Recreation Board endorsement for several projects to be considered for the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve to include trail and mound signage and acceptance of boulder donation from the Keinbaum family.

Posted the Starin Park Water Tower and the Armory as the newest Local Landmarks on the City website.

Renewed membership in the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commission.

Received the professional survey of the panther mound at the effigy mounds preserve completed in November 2015 from the professional team that completed it.

April

Continued to investigate the possibility of LIDAR mapping of the Effigy Mounds Preserve in conjunction with Walworth County.

Initiated investigation into the brick yard kilns on Jefferson Street. A portion of the land was given for use as a park. Research will continue with regard to the possibility of marking the site with an historic plaque.

May

Worked with the City of Whitewater to issue proclamations honoring both the Wisconsin Historical Preservation Month and the Wisconsin Archeological Month.

Presented an Annual Commission Activities report to the Whitewater City Council.

Installed an historic display entitled "Whitewater – Then and Now" at the library for Wisconsin Historical Preservation month.

Assisted with the reorganization of the Friends of the Effigy Mounds Preserve and the development of its Bylaws.

Discontinued the tile project for Local Landmark residences with Taylor McDarison who was commissioned to design and produce the tiles.

Attended the Birge Fountain Committee meeting.

June

Initiated investigation into the purchase of inventory tags to designate and number city owned historic property.

Reviewed application regarding the addition of a utility shed and the building of a 22' x 36' garage on the Local Landmark site of the Lyman White Octagon House at 127 N. Newcomb Street currently owned by the Hajewski's. The Commission granted approval of the construction and will monitor the progress of the project.

Attended a meeting of the Friends of the Effigy Mounds Preserve featuring archeologist, Dr. George Christenson.

July

Taylor McDarison, UW-Whitewater art student that had worked on designing tiles for the Landmark home in the city relinquished the molds and completed tiles as well as her drawings and computer files to the Commission. Everything is stored in the basement of the White Memorial Building.

Commission members hosted a meeting on July 15th by archeologist, Rob Nurre at the library and then led a tour of the Effigy Mound Preserve attended by 22 people.

August

Filed the annual Commission report with the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

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

Commission members attended the August 2nd meeting of the Legislative Council Study Committee revisiting the burial site preservation laws at the State Capitol.

Approved text for signage at the effigy mounds preserve and selected bronze plaques for the signage which would be adhered to large boulders.

September

Commissioners attended the September 8th meeting of the Legislative Council Study Committee revisiting the burial site preservation laws at the State Capitol

Hosted a tour of the Effigy Mound Preserve by moonlight on September 16th. There were 41 people in attendance.

Proposed the consideration of the Moksnes/Epps House and Walton Oaks Park as future Local Landmarks.

October

Met with the Kienbaum Family to select the glacial boulders for the signage project to be delivered to the Effigy Mounds Preserve.

Attended the October 5th meeting of the Legislative Council Study Committee revisiting the burial site preservation laws at the State Capitol.

Conducted an in-service for Commission members and City Staff regarding the City of Whitewater Landmarks Ordinance on October 7th.

Attended the Wisconsin Historical Society Preservation Conference, October 21/22 at the Wisconsin Dells.

Prepared press releases and participated in a radio interview at WFAW in Fort Atkinson regarding the Effigy Mounds Preserve "Adopt a Mound" initiative and clean-up day.

Visited Effigy Mounds National Monument in Marquette, Iowa and the Sny McGill Mounds site in MacGregor, Iowa to consult with park management regarding mounds preservation and care.

Updated the interactive map regarding Local Landmarks on the city website.

November

Submitted a grant to the Wisconsin State Preservation Commission requesting \$22,000 for the survey and measurement of the 13 mounds at the Effigy Mounds Preserve.

Received permission for work at the Effigy Mounds Preserve clearing debris and initiated the "Adopt a Mound" volunteer program which was marketed to families and interest groups. Four mounds were adopted by members of the community and clean up took place on November 12th.

Attended the November 10th meeting of the Legislative Council Study Committee revisiting the burial site preservation laws at the State Capitol.

Finalized copy regarding the Starin Water Tower and the Armory for an updated brochure on Local Landmarks.

Hosted Library Board President, Anne Hartwig who shared information with the Commission on the possible library expansion program.

Interviewed architect, Peter Fritz Dreger who designed the Moksnes/Epps home in preparation of the nomination for the home as a Local Landmark.

December

Conducted a hearing On December 7th regarding the installation of replacement awnings (including one with signage) at the White Memorial Building. This project was denied.

Presented a power point to the Library Board regarding the history and significance of the property at 507 W. Main Street and the adjacent Main Street Historic District.

Notified area realtors by delivering/ mailing packets that contained an introductory letter from the Landmarks Commission, a City of Whitewater Landmarks brochure and a copy of the Landmarks Ordinance.

Looking ahead to 2017, the Whitewater Landmarks Commission is planning:

To re-apply for a grant from the Wisconsin State Historical Society to measure and map the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve by a team of professional archeologists.

Assist with the hiring of a professional conservator to assess and offer conservation and maintenance plans for the preservation of the Birge Fountain.

To continue monitoring the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve, ensuring maintenance, enlisting volunteers to clear debris and provide for continued preservation of the site.

Continue to compile a list and present possible nominations of structures eligible for local landmark status.

Provide information on local history and historic preservation to Whitewater and Walworth county schools and communities.

Continue annual celebration of Historic Preservation Month and Archeology Month each May.

Develop long range publicity campaign for local landmarks and Effigy Mounds.

Facilitate the repair, painting and maintenance of the Birge Fountain.

Assist the Whitewater Community in promoting historic preservation in conjunction with the Whitewater Historical Society, Downtown Whitewater, Inc. , Tourism/Chamber of Commerce, City Council and the Walworth County Historical Society.