

**WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION
ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES REPORT
(January – December, 2017)**

The City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission's regularly scheduled meetings were held twelve (12) times between January 2017 and December 2017. In addition the Commission held three (3) special meetings: March 17 (Birge Fountain), July 13 (Proposed changes to the Landmarks Ordinance) and August 31 (Proposed changes to the Landmarks Commission membership).

The Commission currently monitors 22 individually listed Landmarks as well as the Main Street Historic District.

In 2008, the Commission reviewed and accepted the Architectural and Historic Survey of Whitewater properties completed by Carol Cartwright which is still used. It provides information to the Commission with regard to existing structures that would qualify to be designated as Local Landmarks.

In 2017 the Landmarks Commission completed the following:

January

- Partnered with the Birge Fountain Committee to hire a conservator.
- Attended ongoing meetings of the Wisconsin State Burial Preservation Acts Committee at the State Capitol and continued to do so throughout 2017.
- Presented information regarding Landmark status and procedures for dealing with Landmark properties before a meeting of the Library Board of Directors.

February

- Developed a list of items that a conservator should address when assessing the Birge Fountain and forwarded it to Cameron Clapper and Chuck Nass.

March

- Attended a meeting regarding the donation of machine parts (turbine) from the Old Stone Mill.

April

- Continued the ongoing photographic history of Whitewater homes and buildings (intent is to photograph all existing structures in Whitewater).

May

- Installed a display at the Irwin Young Memorial Library regarding National/State Historic Preservation Month focusing on the Birge Fountain and the JJ Starin Mansion.
- Designated the Moksnes/Epps House at 970 Highland Street as a Local Landmark.
- Completed a presentation for the Senior Citizen Center by former Commissioner, Kori Oberle regarding the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve, followed by a tour of the mounds.
- Sent letters of appreciation regarding care and maintenance to the owners of all locally designated Landmarks in the city of Whitewater.
- Held a clean-up day at the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve and instigated the Adopt a Mound program for community involvement.
- Presented the 2016 Annual Preservation Activities Report to the Whitewater City Council.

June

- Partnered with the Irwin Young Memorial Library children's librarian, Deana Rolfsmeyer and resident, Kori Oberle to host an educational family event for children regarding our Local

Landmark homes to include history and architectural detail entitled “Hello Building, How Old Are You” (supplementing the Summer Reading Program at the library).

- Met with a conservator from McKay laboratories for an initial assessment and triage suggestions for the Birge Fountain.
- Initiated a committee to work on the reprint of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission brochure.

July

- Provided the Department of Public Works (Chuck Nass) with guidelines from the HoChunk Nation to deal with the May storm damage and fallen trees at the Effigy Mounds Preserve.
- Heard an initial proposal by Randall Aschbrenner and offered suggestions and advice regarding the renovation of the Landmark Hotel.

August

- Ordered inventory tags to be placed on historic city owned property.
- Completed written copy and photography for the reprint of the Landmarks Commission brochure.
- Designated Walton Oaks Park as a Local Landmark.

September

- Granted permission and assistance to Bill Bowen for use of Landmarks brochure content to be included for the pilot of the StriveOn app being introduced to Whitewater.
- Assisted with the rewrite of Whitewater Municipal Code Section 17.12.020 (5).

October

- Commission members attended the Wisconsin State Historical Society Annual Preservation Conference in LaCrosse.
- Contacted the Whitewater Federation of Women’s Clubs to co-sponsor a tour of Landmark historic homes and buildings (tour will take place in June of 2019).

November

- Completed inventorying, photographing and tagging of the city owned historic Leon Pescheret Collection housed at the Irwin L. Young Memorial Library.

December

- Reviewed the highlights of the conservator’s report from the McKay Laboratories to include triage suggestions for the Birge Fountain as well as a long range plan for the conservation and preservation of the fountain.
- Reviewed the Ethics Brochure developed by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

Looking ahead to 2018, the Landmarks Commission is planning:

- To reprint the Whitewater Landmarks Brochure.
- Continue to work with Bill Bowen on the inclusion of Local Landmarks for the StriveOn App.
- Continue to support and be a part of the Irwin L. Young Library programs regarding Local Landmark education.
- To designate significant historic properties as Local Landmarks.
- To complete the inventory of City owned historic property.
- To monitor the renovations being done on the Landmark Hotel.
- To assist the Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Effigy Mounds Preserve with the location of trails and signage at the site as well as clean-up and the “Adopt a Mound” program

- To plan activities for the Wisconsin Historical Preservation and Archeological Preservation Month.