

# WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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**May 4, 2011**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Vice Chair, Christ called to order the monthly meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission at 5:09 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room of the Whitewater Municipal Building.
- b. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Carol Christ, Richard Helmick, Marilyn Kienbaum, and Linda Loomer. Note: Mariann Scott arrived at 5:15. David Sachs was absent. Guests present –, Diahann Lohr, Stacey Lunsford, Rob Nurre, Kori Oberle, and Linda Platner.

II. Approval of Agenda and Rearrangement

- a. Helmick moved and Loomer seconded to move items #XIV and XI (5) after item VI and approve the agenda as rearranged.
- b. AYES: Christ, Helmick, Kienbaum, Loomer. NOES: None ABSENT: Sachs, Scott.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Loomer moved and Helmick seconded to accept the April 13, 2010 minutes as printed.
- b. AYES: Christ, Helmick, Kienbaum, Loomer.. NOES: None ABSENT: Sachs, Scott.

Note: At 5:15, Scott arrived and took over the chair.

IV. Next Landmark's Commission Meeting

The next meeting is to be scheduled for Wed. June 1, at 5:00 P.M in the City Manager's Conference Room at the Whitewater Municipal Building.

V. Citizen's Comments

- a. See comments from Kori Oberle under # XIV.
- b. See comments from Stacey Lunsford under # XI (5)
- c. See comments from Rob Nurre under #VII (e).
- d. See comments from Diahann Lohr under # XIV.

**OLD BUSINESS**

VI. Report from Friends of the Mounds

- a. FOTEM met with Matt Amundson on April 26<sup>th</sup> to remove brush from the Mounds.
- b. Helmick reported that he met with Tom Jennings, Jennings & Assoc. to work on the path for the mounds on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- c. FOTEM met on April 28<sup>th</sup> and formulated a plan to send a letter to Common Council Members with information re encroachments on the mounds preserve. Each friend chose a council member to contact personally prior to the May 3, Common Council Meeting.
- d. The FOTEM supervised 30 UW-W students who assisted with clearing brush on Make A Difference Day, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- e. FOTEM attended a Park and Rec Board Meeting and distributed copies of the Gazette Article on the Mounds that was published on May 2.

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## XIV. Educational Opportunities at the Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson

- a. Kori Oberle, director of Hoard Museum presented ideas that would awaken people that there are local mounds that can be visited.
- b. Last year there were 17,000 visitors to the museum from 33 other countries and every state except Montana, Rhode Island and Delaware.
- c. Oberle proposed a 3 Panel display that would highlight Jefferson County Mounds, Aztalan Mounds and Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve.
- d. Each panel would have an area map, an aerial view of the site, photos and text.
- e. Diahann Lohr expressed interest in developing graphics for the panel.
- f. Helmick moved that the Landmarks Commission explore information that could be used in the panel display. Loomer seconded the motion.
- g. AYES: Christ, Helmick, Kienbaum, Loomer, Scott. NOES: None ABSENT: Sachs.

## XI. (5) Whitewater Historical and Archeological Preservation Month

- a. Stacey Lunsford, the director of the Irvin Young Memorial Library announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the current library building was being celebrated on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- b. A dedication of the "FREE LIBRARY" letters is being planned for that date along with a panel explaining the history and importance of free libraries.
- c. Both the panel and letters will be attached to the White Building prior to June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. Report and Discussion on the Effigy Mounds Restoration Proposal progress

- a. Burn was conducted on Monday, April 25. Due to wet conditions some areas did not burn well. The north side just past the entrance was not able to be burned due to lack of a fire break.
- b. FOTEM sent letters to all members of city council (see VI. c) re this issue.
- c. Helmick marked out a path system which would allow visitors to see all of the mounds and respect the privacy of private homes.
- d. Scott was interviewed by Kevin Hoffman of the Janesville Gazette. The article was published on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. One item of misinformation – Bob Birmingham had stated that it wasn't determined whether Whitewater is a burial site. Whitewater Effigy Mounds are catalogued as a burial site under the State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Law of 1985.
- e. Guest, Rob Nurre, Preservation Sites chair of the Wisconsin Historical Society spoke on the uniqueness of the site. His suggestions:
  - 1) What do you want visitor to site to experience?
  - 2) Tell the story as you walk in
  - 3) Make shapes more visible.
  - 4) Strengthen the preservation portions of the restoration proposal

## VIII. Report on James and Ella Rockefeller House

- a. Christ reported that the press releases (April 19, 2011) are out advertising the site for sale to a qualified bidder who is willing to relocate the house and sign a preservation covenant.
- b. WisDOT will contribute \$50,000 toward the cost of relocation.
- c. Information packets must be requested by June 4, 2011 and returned within 30 days.

## IX. Report on Yasko House landmark nomination process

Helmick reported that Carol Cartwright is reviewing the application.

## X. Report on membership in the Wisconsin Alliance of Preservation Commissions

- a. The city has applied for membership
- b. Landmarks commissioners will get email versions of newsletter.

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## XI. Plans for celebrating Historical & Archaeological Preservation Month

- a. Church Walk, Sunday, May 15
  - 1) Six Churches - 1st English, St John's, Congregational, St. Luke's, Methodist, St. Patrick's.
  - 2) 15 -20 minutes at each church, scheduled at half hour starting at 1PM.
- b. Effigy Mounds Preserve May 28  
Rob Nurre, Chair, Preservation Committee of the Wisconsin Archaeology Society and Kori Oberle, director of the Hoard Museum will be featured speakers.
- c. Birge Fountain Display and Maid of the Mist
  - 1) Begins at 12:30 at White Building with Maid of the Mist in new display case.
  - 2) *Period Paper* printed an informational poster to be attached to case.
- d. Roy Nosek will be at Birge Fountain to talk about history of fountain.
- e. FREE LIBRARY Letters (addressed above)
- f. Publicity  
Scott and Pastor Jerry Wendt will be interviewed on WFAW, Morning Magazine on May 2 at 9:30 AM.
- g. Whitewater Historical Society  
Depot will be open to share plans for new construction
- h. Possible Fundraising  
Donation jar will be used to accept donations for research of possible intaglio.

## NEW BUSINESS

### XII. Landmarks Commission 2010 Report to Wisconsin Historical Society

Scott is working on report

### XIII. Review Whitewater attendance, commission, boards and committee policy.

Scott will notify city clerk about member absence.

### XIV. Educational Opportunities at Hoard Museum (addressed above).

### XV. Review possible future Local Landmarks Designations

- a. Leon Pescheret House (Scott)
- b. Vivian Henderson House (Scott)
- c. Starin Park Historic Neighborhood (Helmick)
- d. Ambrose House (Helmick)

### XVI. Future Agenda Items

- a. New provision of Chapter 17 – criteria and list
- b. Possible amendments to Chapter 17 Ordinance (COA, Annual report to council)
- c. Possible Grants – Jeffris Family and CLG
- d. Plaques for Whitewater sites that are on National Register

### XVII. Adjournment

- a. Helmick moved and Christ seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 P.M.
- h. AYES: Christ, Helmick, Kienbaum, Loomer, Scott. NOES: None ABSENT: Sachs.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol D. Christ  
Secretary Pro Tem