



Whitewater Landmarks Commission Minutes

**Thursday, April 2, 2015 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Building, City Managers Conference Room
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190**

Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call
Vice-Chairperson Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.
Present: Alan Marshall, Suzanne Haselow, Pat Blackmer, Richard Helmick
Absent: Ken Kienbaum, Suzanne Popke, city council representative
Staff present: Alan Lockett
Guests: Kori Oberle
- Approval of Agenda
MSC Helmick/Haselow to approve the agenda as posted.
Ayes: Marshall, Haselow, Blackmer, Helmick
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2015
There were some spelling corrections and one name misspelling to be corrected. MSC Blackmer/Haselow to approve the minutes as corrected.
Ayes: Marshall, Haselow, Blackmer, Helmick
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, May 7, 2015 - 6:30 PM
The next meeting of the Landmarks Commission will be on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:30 in the city manager's, conference room.
- 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 Commission discusses that particular item. There were no citizen comments.

Reports

- Friends of the Mounds (Helmick)

- Members will be attending a meeting on mounds preservation and management hosted by the WI Archeological Society on April 25 at the Leopold Center in Baraboo.
- Matt Amundson indicated that he is supportive of planned attempts to rejuvenate FOTEM as a more active group.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick) (Oberle)
 - The city conducted a burn at the EMP on Friday, March 20. The five acre area adjacent to the preserve on the west as well as the mounds were attempted to be burned. The savanna areas as well as most the land surrounding the mounds were not burned. Some of the mounds were only partially burned. More clarification on the areas needed to be burned and its effect on recent seedlings is needed.
 - The Park and Rec Board hired Midwest Prairie to do some seeding and invasive eradication. The money for this will come from the \$15,000 originally ear marked for signage. It was thought that there is enough money to do both things.
- Historical Society (Marshall)
 - There will be a new exhibit on Whitewater pottery. It is planned to be opened around the 4th of July.
 - Another project, Before the Settlers Came, is also planned. This will focus on the land around Whitewater as it was before the settlers arrived. This project is still being discussed.
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)

No report. There are vacancies on the committee.
- Landmark Signage (Taylor)
 - No report.
 - Taylor sent an email Sarah Bregant and Luckett wanting an independent contract and the first half of her payment. Luckett will review procedures with Cameron Clapper and Doug Saubert to see what steps needed to be taken next. Commissioners were disappointed that Taylor was unable to be at the meeting to discuss progress on signage. It is expected that she will be able to provide finish projects to the committee prior to the last payment.

Unfinished Business

- Work on wording on signage for the Mounds in conjunction with the Friends of the Mounds Committee

Oberle has met with Matt Amundson and gotten his support to begin a draft of information to be presented. The committee will propose a draft for all signage to be used at the EMP. The draft would be shared with other stake holders (Urban Forestry Commission, Park and Rec Board, FOTEM) for comments. Plaques for the individual mounds have an anticipated life span of 20 years. Suggested sites for the markers will be mapped and brought forward. Other signage would include broader information at the entrance as well as at the sidewalk along Indian Mounds Parkway. It is also suggested that informational signage on the savanna, birds, and different biomes be presented. Hopefully, by the June Landmarks meeting, the committee will be able to bring its first draft for consideration.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds – Face Book (Oberle)

Face Book has taken down the Whitewater Effigy Mounds page. What is proposed is that a generic email address be set up to register a new page. Log in credentials could be shared with the Landmarks Commission and city staff. In this way, others can post information and police the site for erroneous and/or unwanted postings. Additionally, it is suggested to set it up as a business page rather than a personal one. Educational content could be posted on a weekly basis

to build interest and a broader following. Oberle showed some examples for the commissioners to view. Commissioners encouraged Oberle to continue and set up the page.

- Web based Landmark Application Forms (Luckett)
The form is done and is on the city web site for viewing.
- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Luckett)
Luckett will be contacting Eric Compass, UW-Whitewater to fix the download problems. The original person who worked on that page is no longer at UW-Whitewater.

New Business

- Research on Grants (Haselow)
Haselow reported that she and Denay Trykowski reviewed the list of grants that were originally compiled. They picked two grants for more investigation. At this point, neither one is promising. Other avenues are being explored, in particular, reaching out to the Ho Chunk nation for support. Haselow will continue to look into this.
- City Water Tower nomination as a local Landmark (Haselow)
 - Haselow said she did not want to over step on any other person's responsibility. Luckett said he would investigate city records. Records on hand disagree to when it was built – 1885, 1888, or 1889. Luckett will contact Rick Lien, from the water department, for his opinions.
 - Oberle suggested that the commission may want to look into the idea of having all of Starin Park nominated for landmark status. It is the oldest, established park in the city, organized in 1888. It was noted that the Park and Rec Board would need to be contacted for its consideration. The commission decided to just focus on the water tower at this time.

Future Agenda Items

- May is National Preservation and National Archeological Month. The city prepares a proclamation for both. They will be given out in May at a common council meeting. A representative from the Landmarks Commission will need to be present to accept them.
- An annual report is to be given at the same, May common council meeting.
- An annual report also needs to be filed with the State Historical Society.
- Election of officers will need to take place.

Good of the Order

Marshall stated that he will not continue his place on the commission. Both business concerns as well as activities at the Historical Society are taking more of his time than he wants. He thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve.

Adjournment

MSC Haselow/Blackmer moved to adjourn.

Ayes: Marshall, Haselow, Blackmer, Helmick

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Helmick, secretary