



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, February 2, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, Cravath Lakefront Room

312 W Whitewater St, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Pat Blackmer, Ben Adamitus, Karen Coburn, Kori Oberle, James Olm, Dan Richardson, Lukas Schreiber

Absent: None

Staff present: Olivia Pratt

Approval of Agenda

- Schreiber made a motion to approve the Agenda for this meeting, seconded by Adamitus.

Ayes: Adamitus, Blackmer, Coburn, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Schreiber made a motion to approve the minutes from January 5, 2022 seconded by Olm.

Ayes: Adamitus, Blackmer, Coburn, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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.

Set date of next meeting – March 2, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Reports

- Vibrant Spaces Grant, ad hoc committee report (Oberle)

Oberle, Eric Boettcher, Jaime Weigel, and Peggy VanScotter, the members of the ad hoc committee, submitted the grant on the day it was due. The Commission will find out in early May if it has been awarded the grant.

Unfinished Business

- City-owned Local Landmarks: ongoing assessment of condition, maintenance/repair needs, plans, etc.

- Birge Fountain (Anniversary Celebration)

The celebration will take place on June 25, 2023 in the afternoon. It will be a simple event with cake and ice cream. It's the 120th anniversary of the fountain and the event is to call attention to the fountain itself and what a nice gathering space it is.

- Effigy Mounds Preserve

A quote was obtained from Commonwealth Heritage Group regarding the measurement of the mounds. The quote came out just over \$8000 so Boettcher contacted them to request measurement of all of the mounds in the preserve.

- White Memorial Library

Blackmer states that the structure needs tuckpointing and has issues on the portico roof. It's unknown if a quote has been obtained for the tuckpointing yet.

- Starin Park Water Tower

The tower will likely be on the agenda for the February 21 Common Council meeting. Olm suggests the Commission brainstorm some ideas as to what the tower could be used for in the future. Richardson will see what the Historical Society says about the tower. Blackmer and Oberle will make an appointment to talk about setting up a pass-through account with the Whitewater Community Foundation and will get back to the Commission in March.

- Armory

Blackmer will ask Boettcher to investigate the maintenance of the building and will show him the photographs that Olm took of areas of concern.

- Educational Program on City-owned Local Landmarks at risk: Irvin L. Young Memorial Library Review/Attendance

45 people attended the presentation. Citizens had great questions and concerns, and some were willing to donate financially immediately following the presentation. At least one letter was sent to the Common Council and City Manager by a concerned citizen. Three people also volunteered to be on the future fundraising committee.

- Fundraising: ad hoc Committee

The Landmarks Commission decided it would be more advantageous to fundraise for all of the local landmarks together instead of just prioritizing one at a time.

New Business

- Library Display Case Planning (May)

The display case is reserved for Historic Preservation Month. Any ideas for the display case should be brought to the March meeting.

- Letter from Walworth County Historical Society

A letter was written from the Board of Directors affirming the fact that they're totally committed to the Landmarks Commission's efforts at historic preservation for the four local landmarks and wishing the Commission the best. They also wrote a letter in favor of the Vibrant Spaces grant.

- Passing of Greg Aprahamian

Aprahamian was an important part of Whitewater's restoration of historic buildings. One possible item of future concern is the Prairie Tillers mural, which is a local landmark, because it is located on the wall on one of the buildings that the Aprahamian estate owns. Aprahamian also started the restoration of the White Elephant building and owns several buildings in the downtown area.

Future Agenda Items

- City-owned local landmarks
 - Water tower steel basin report
- Library display case planning
- Territorial Oak
- Community Foundation account
- Water tower brainstorm (Olm)
- Report from Historical Society (Richardson)

Adjournment

- Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Olivia Pratt, Staff Representative