



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, March 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

Others: Beverley Stone

Approval of Agenda

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

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 February 2, 2022 seconded by Adamitus.

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 – April 6, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Reports

- Vibrant Spaces Grant, Mounds Preserve ad hoc committee update (Oberle)

The granting agency reached out to Boettcher and asked him to reconfigure the budget because the project sounds very interesting. There are over 100 other applicants for the Vibrant Spaces Grant. When the ad hoc committee was originally set up it was divided into three subcommittees – one for the Vibrant Spaces Grant, one to come up with a general 5-year management plan, and one for fundraising. Oberle suggests meeting now to have a strategy in place in case Effigy Mounds doesn't get selected for the Vibrant Spaces Grant so that some aspects of the plan can still be completed or to come up with general benchmarks so that the progress made does not get lost.

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

Boettcher is in the process of organizing Make A Difference Day on Friday, April 21, 2023. In conjunction, he's eliciting help from the University and others for a prescribed burn to be done sometime before the event. It is the hope that Commonwealth Heritage Group will be able to attend and measure the mounds on that date so that the volunteers will be able to help with anything Commonwealth needs. The UW-W NACAA faculty advisor attended the Effigy Mounds presentation at the library in November and reached out to the Landmarks Commission. The advisor would like the club, consisting of anthropology students, to receive that PowerPoint presentation before April 21st so that they have information prior to the event.

- White Memorial Library – Estimates for Tuckpointing

One company, Tremco, is to provide an estimate. City maintenance employees Dan and Dwight are seeking additional estimates for a total of three different estimates. They are also going to address issues with other buildings that need maintenance such as the chimney of the armory.

- Starin Park Water Tower – Report on City Council Recommendation

The issue has been sent on to the Finance Committee per Council recommendation. Oberle points out that the water tower is on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting.

- Armory

Blackmer forwarded Olm's photos to Boettcher and asked him to forward them on to the correct individuals.

New Business

- **Library Display Case Planning (May)**

Adamitus suggests using the display case to show where the Commission started with the Mounds, the progress that has been made, and plans for the future with a positive approach. After the Make A Difference Day in April there will probably be some good pictures.

- **Possible Conduit Account for Donations**

Blackmer went online to the Whitewater Community Fund contact request and it was not received. Bonnie Miller then emailed Blackmer with information. Any donations would be recognized as tax-deductible because it's a 501(c)(3). Most of the WWCF's conduit accounts are for short-term projects, but the Landmarks Commission would need something that lasts longer than a year. Oberle recommends an account for the 8 local landmarks at risk that would stay open for 10 years. She is under the impression that there is a way for incoming donations to be earmarked for a specific landmark instead of just the general account. Blackmer will visit First Citizens State Bank to fill out paperwork and meet with them if appropriate.

- **Historical Society Support for Landmarks at Risk (Richardson)**

The Board of Directors of the Whitewater Historical Society met regarding the Starin Park Water Tower. They appreciated the fact that the Landmarks Commission is involved in educating the general population on local landmarks. They also mentioned creating an exploratory committee to look into getting quotes for stabilizing the water tower for the time-being and working on lower priority fixes later. Member Carol Cartwright has done work on several historical water towers in Rock County and Fort Atkinson so she has some knowledge on how the process works and how money is raised in other locales. Actions taken at the meeting include discussing possibilities to repurpose the tower, considering where the water tower ranks in terms of its priority relative to the other at-risk local landmarks and the library expansion, and writing a letter of support for saving the water tower to City Manager John Weidl and Common Council President Lisa Dawsey-Smith.

- **Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions Spring Conference: April 29, 2023**

The meeting is both in-person and virtual. All Landmarks Commission members have received information regarding the conference via email.

- **Annual Report: Certified Local Governments**

The Landmarks Commission has to make an annual report in order to keep Certified Local Government status. Chairperson Blackmer submitted the report in January.

- **Acorn Report (Coburn)**

In the February meeting the Territorial Oak was discussed and wondered if any of its acorns had been harvested. The harvested acorns in fact came from trees of the same species in Effigy Mounds Preserve, but not from the Territorial Oak itself.

Schreiber moves to add security and safety concerns of Delta Zeta (Esterly House landmark) onto the agenda, seconded by Adamitus. The motion passed unanimously.

- Security and Safety Concerns of Delta Zeta (Esterly House landmark)

The sorority has had several issues in the last few months requiring the prioritization of installing outdoor cameras. They ask the Landmarks Commission permission to approve the installation of 5-7 cameras on the exterior of the building to be able to view all angles of the property. The sorority included images of where the cameras would be installed and they are unobtrusive. New conduit would be necessary to provide power and internet, and it would be placed adjacent to the existing conduit where applicable or along molding and trim so as to not be noticeable. Oberle moves to permit Delta Zeta sorority to place the conduit, camera, and video doorbell as proposed with the provision that they try to not place anything into the brick and thank the sorority for adhering to ordinance and approaching the Landmarks Commission, seconded by Schreiber. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

- City-owned local landmarks
- Library display case planning
- Community Foundation account
- Water tower repurposing ideas (Olm)
- Report from Whitewater Tourism Council (Oberle)

Adjournment

- Blackmer adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Olivia Pratt, Staff Representative