



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, May 4, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, Cravath Lakefront Room

312 W Whitewater St, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Olivia Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Ben Adamitus, Kori Oberle, James Olm, Dan Richardson,
Lukas Schreiber, Jaime Weigel (arrived at 6:11 pm)

Absent: Karen Coburn

Staff present: Olivia Pratt

Others: Jim Fleming, Gloria Buley, Pat Blackmer, David Stone

Election of Commission Officers

- Pratt asked if there were nominations for the Chair of the Landmarks Commission. Oberle nominated Adamitus with a second from Olm.
- Pratt asked two more times if there were nominations for the Chair of the Landmarks Commission and there were none.
- Pratt asked if the Commission was in favor of Adamitus being the Chair of the Landmarks Commission and they were all in favor. Pratt asked for any noes and there were none.

Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn, Weigel

- Adamitus asked if there were nominations for the Vice Chair of the Landmarks Commission. Olm nominated Oberle with a second from Schreiber.
- Adamitus asked two more times if there were nominations for the Vice Chair of the Landmarks Commission and there were none.
- Adamitus asked if the Commission were in favor of Oberle being the Vice Chair of the Landmarks Commission and they were all in favor. Adamitus asked for any noes and there were none.

Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn, Weigel

- Adamitus asked if there were nominations for the Secretary-Treasurer of the Landmarks Commission. Schreiber nominated Schreiber with a second from Olm.

- Adamitus asked two more times if there were nominations for the Secretary-Treasurer of the Landmarks Commission and there were none.
- Adamitus asked if the Commission were in favor of Schreiber being the Secretary-Treasurer of the Landmarks Commission and they were all in favor. Adamitus asked for any noes and there were none.

Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn, Weigel

Approval of Agenda

- Richardson made a motion to approve the Agenda for this meeting, seconded by Schreiber with the correction of the spelling of Schreiber's name.

Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Coburn

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Schreiber made a motion to approve the minutes from April 6 seconded by Adamitus with the correction of the year 1886 for the Starin Park Water Tower.

Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber

Noes: None

Abstained: Weigel

Absent: Coburn

The motion passed nem com.

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 – June 1, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Updates & Announcements

- Congratulations & Thanks to outgoing Chair, Pat Blackmer, for 9 years of service on Commission.
- Welcome to Jaime Weigel, newest member of the Landmarks Commission.
- Lukas Schreiber has been reappointed as the Common Council representative through April 2024.
- Happy National Historic Preservation Month & National Archaeology Month.
- Public Library Display Case has been installed, featuring public education about local landmarks focusing on local art and architecture.
- Landmarks Brochures Reprinted, available at Chamber, City Hall, and University.

Unfinished Business: Discussion & Possible Action on any and all of the following

- City-owned Local Landmarks: ongoing assessment of condition, maintenance/repair needs, plans, etc.
 - Adamitus will begin to do a tour of the local landmarks to assess and document their current condition.
 - Birge Fountain – the two pieces that are in the process of being painted have not yet been returned to the fountain. Oberle called the painter and is awaiting his response.
 - Effigy Mounds Preserve – Make a Difference Day was April 21st which included University students and professors helping to clean up the preserve. Two Commonwealth Heritage archaeologists measured mounds while the cleanup was occurring. They still have around half of the preserve to measure. Midwest Prairie conducted a controlled burn to control invasive species. Two oak trees need to be removed due to their risk of causing damage to the mounds. The crushed limestone path is set to be installed soon.
- Potential fundraising models for restoration of City-owned landmarks
Oberle and Pat Blackmer met with City Manager John Weidl to ask about the pros and cons of the City being named on the Community Foundation fund versus the Landmarks Commission being named. Weidl was in favor but noted that it would require a vote by the Common Council. The fund would be opened for people to make charitable contributions as private donations. Somebody has to be appointed supervisor of the fund, which would preferably be a Landmarks Commission member. Oberle provided a document (attached) which lays out 5 city-owned local landmarks, some brief information about each, and repair needs and estimates. Schreiber volunteered to work with the city manager and city attorney to research the matter more thoroughly.
- Privately-owned Local Landmarks: ongoing assessment of condition, maintenance or repair needs, plans, etc.
 - Landmark Hotel – Adamitus received an email from the owner stated that the contractor is scheduled to begin work in the Spring. Adamitus will personally introduce himself to the property owner, Jason Jerman, and will return to the Commission with an update.

New Business: Discussion & Possible Action on any and all of the following

- Landmarks Commission's educational activities (Oberle)
In preparation of being more active with public education on the current and potential landmarks as well as other information, the Commission plans to commit to a regular standing agenda item for each of the 28 landmarks. One commission member will present on one landmark each meeting. The presentation will include what and where the landmark is and its background. Olm volunteers to present for the first three meetings, starting June 1 with the Hamilton House, followed by the Bassett House and then Victoria on Main.
- Landmarks Ordinance (1985) review
The ordinance was actually created in 1982. It is the perspective of the Landmarks Commission that the more than 40 year old ordinance should be updated in order to ensure the Commission is following current best practices, especially regarding the inventoried property other than buildings consisting over around 500 items.

- Other business

Posters were received by Pratt from the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions for National Historic Preservation Month & National Archaeology Month.

Request for Future Agenda Items

- Landmark presentation
- Potential fundraising
- City-owned local landmarks
- Privately-owned local landmarks
 - Hamilton House
 - Landmark Hotel
- Ordinance review

Adjournment

- Adamitus adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Olivia Pratt, Staff Representative