



Whitewater Landmarks Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, June 1, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Building, Cravath Lakefront Room

312 W Whitewater St, Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Ben Adamitus called meeting to order at 6:00PM
 - Present: Ben Adamitus, Kori Oberle, James Olm, Dan Richardson, Lukas Schreiber, Jaime Weigel, Karen Coburn
 - Absent: None
 - Staff Present: Ben Kloskey
 - Others: Gloria Buley, Geri Kratz, Pat Blackmer, David Stone

Approval of Agenda

- Motioned by Schreiber
- Seconded by Olm
- Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel, Coburn
- Nays: none
- Motion passes unanimously

Approval of the Minutes of May 4, 2023

- Oberle Motions to approve minutes with the corrections of the proper votes and presence of Jaime Weigel (Present at 6:11, abstained from minutes, voted on agenda and other items)
- Seconded by Olm
- Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel, Coburn
- Nays: None
- Passes unanimously

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.

- Pat Blackmer asks why Jamie Weigel only appointed for 1 year not 3 years

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

Reports

- Digitization and Consolidation of Local Landmark information and nomination documentation (Adamitus)
 - Adamitus is currently working on spreadsheet with all landmark information, has gathered information on all landmarks, who owns/maintains them, and brief summaries of them. Working on also seeing process on introducing landmarks. Readily have information in one spot for the commission, not publicly for sake of private owners' privacy

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.
 - Armory
 - No updates
 - Birge Fountain
 - Oberle updated that painter still has two of the missing fountain pieces in his possession, still working on finding best way to repaint pieces to look like the current fountain. Will be installed by fountain anniversary.
 - Olm asked about plans for anniversary celebration of fountain, may want to coordinate with Arts Alliance and use of their building (White Memorial Library) for that day as they are opening up a quilt show at that time
 - The planning committee met and received approval from the City for small event for anniversary of Birge Fountain. Spoke on details of small event for the 120th birthday. Will be press releases and social media posts with further information. Event Sunday June 25 from 1-4PM.
 - Ms. Buley asked about absence of flowers at fountain. Oberle mentioned parks department working on obtaining flowers
 - Olm asked about how citizens may donate to Birge Fountain. Oberle mentioned how we are talking with City Manager, if put in city's name needs to be passed by council. Oberle expressed concerns with ability to have that passed by council. Schreiber said there shouldn't be an issue. Oberle suggested approach community foundation to set up a fund for the Birge Fountain. Weigel asks how other fundraisers would be made, Oberle said we would deal with future fundraising when the need further arises, through the Community Foundation unless commission wanted to approach the City and Council. Olm asks if we could switch funds from Community Foundation to a City account if the Commission chooses to attempt to open a City account. Oberle thinks that would be true, but hinges on if commission chooses to open new accounts with the city. Coburn shares that the Birge Fountain is the landmark that citizens want to preserve the most from an anecdotal story from Fairhaven. Oberle mentioned we need \$120k to restore Birge Fountain
 - Oberle brought forth concern from citizen that fountain waterflow (specifically waterflow to the Lady of the Mist) and lights are not functioning at 100%. Will need to contact proper city department to fix this. Adamitus will contact Public Works for maintenance.

- Olm makes a motion to pursue opening a fundraising account through the Whitewater Community Foundation for the Birge Fountain by the Landmarks Commission. Seconded by Coburn.
- Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel, Coburn
- Nays: None
- Absent: None
- Motion carries unanimously
- Ms. Buley asks what happened if raise over \$120k, Oberle said it will go into an endowment fund
- Coburn asks how this will be broadcast to the community to raise awareness of the fundraising account. Oberle mentioned flyers at the anniversary event and social media, press releases, and other forms of communications
- Effigy Mounds Preserve
 - Oberle reported that the Effigy Mounds did not receive the Vibrant Spaces grant. Does not know what other communities did or did not receive the grant and does not know why the Mounds did not receive the grant.
 - Oberle went over summary of the Mounds, their borders, the state statute required 15ft buffer, and natural disturbances. Also, Oberle mentioned the overgrowth of the entrance and the Mounds themselves. City has done periodic mowing, but not of the whole Mounds. Overall, the Mounds need to be more well kept, need more mowing of overgrowth. Oberle has called Eric Boettcher about Commonwealth Heritage could mark off the pathways and the mowing area. Eric said he would call them, and Oberle also told him to give her a heads up before they mow so they can have someone there to guide them. Eric also said Midwestern Prairies will come and do mowing in June. Oberle comments that we should not lose the progress made on the Mounds
 - Olm mentions we need to better mark the areas in which mowing can/needs to be done. Oberle mentions how we can't have any stakes in the ground, but should have someone to be there when the mowing happens to guide the mowers. Richardson comments how people have not been invited to tell mowers where to mow. Oberle says will continue moving forward in making sure Midwest Prairies knows where to mow.
 - Oberle mentions the way to move forward is have archeologists clearly mark where to mow and have supervision of mowers by someone to ensure they mow correctly
 - Adamitus will reach out to Eric Boettcher about comments made
 - Weigel comments that she reached out to Greg Stewart at High School to incorporate Effigy Mounds in Act 30 Native American studies, he will include mounds in AP Human Geography course. Weigel wants to reach out to superintendent to make the Effigy Mounds a core educational lesson in K-12 classrooms. Oberle says it's a great idea and will be happy to work on Act 30 project with Weigel.
- Starin Park Water Tower
 - No Updates
- White Memorial Library
 - No Updates
- Privately-owned Local Landmarks: ongoing assessment of condition, maintenance or

- repair needs, plans, etc.
- Walworth Hotel (The Landmark)
 - Adamitus reached out to owner of Hotel and wanted update on renovations. Owner is currently searching for new company to do the roofing as previous company stopped returning calls.
 - Oberle mentions it may be approaching time to contact Neighborhood Services on code enforcement for the building
- Adamitus will be sure to treat privately owned landmarks with the same urgency as city owned landmarks
- Landmarks Commission Educational Series: Review of presentation which identifies type and location of landmark, and historical background.
 - Hamilton House (Olm)
 - Olm presents presentation on Hamilton House with a professional video he made himself
 - Olm thinks this video could be used for promotional material on the city website, local news site/cable channel, and for tourism
 - Weigel suggests making a YouTube channel for the Landmarks Commission to upload this video and any future videos like it. Adamitus is in favor of making a YouTube channel and willing to help Weigel. Adamitus also mentions making a general email to set up the YouTube channel for the Landmarks Commission.
 - Ms. Blackmer mentioned Chamber of Commerce had an app that has information on city landmarks and used a QR code for each landmark
 - Olm suggests doing the Birge Fountain next, Coburn and Schreiber agree.
- Review of Landmarks Ordinance
- Adamitus met with Jason Tisch, suggested find specific provisions in the ordinance if we want anything specific change, Tisch mentioned if it ain't broke don't fix it, and opening this up for change in the ordinance opens up the possibility of gutting it entirely.

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

- Hamilton House: Request for additional railing and wheelchair lift
 - Gloria Buley spoke on behalf of the Hamilton House
 - Asking for handrails on eastern porch of building. Will use same set of style of current railings
 - Wants to also add wheelchair/platform lift, hidden by landscaping and side wall as to not be . Reason for request related to upgraded accessibility for Hamilton House
 - Oberle asks if the lift is attached to the house, Buley responds that it is freestanding and not physically attached to the house.
 - Oberle asks how to access the lift, Buley responds will access from parking lot near stone side wall. Will need to also to structural analysis to see if porch meets requirements to be able to handle wheelchairs.
 - Adamitus asks how guests with mobility challenges access the house, Buley responds that there is a two step entrance on side of house – no current ramp
 - Motion made by Olm, seconded by Oberle
 - Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel, Coburn
 - Nays: None
 - Motion carries unanimously

- Delta Zeta Sorority: Request for additional porch light
 - Geri Kratz speaks on
 - Current lights on porch not sufficient enough, used to have a pendant light hanging on porch. Wants to add another hanging pendant light as there was one on the porch in the past. Emphasizes for safety and security
 - Oberle also comments may be useful for security of building
 - Motioned by Olm, seconded by Richardson
 - Ayes: Adamitus, Oberle, Olm, Richardson, Schreiber, Weigel, Coburn
 - Nays: None
 - Motion carries unanimously

Request for Future Agenda Items

- Birge Fountain Presentation

Adjournment

- Adamitus adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lukas Schreiber, Landmarks Commission Secretary