



## Landmarks Committee

Cravath Lakefront Room, 312 West Whitewater St.,  
Whitewater, WI 53190 \*In Person and Virtual

**Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

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Citizens are welcome (and encouraged) to join our webinar via computer, smart phone, or telephone.  
Citizen participation is welcome during topic discussion periods.

Landmarks Commission  
Jan 4, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (America/Chicago)

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/902144517>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code:

902-144-517

United States:

[+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311)

Please note that although every effort will be made to provide for virtual participation, unforeseen technical difficulties may prevent this, in which case the meeting may still proceed as long as there is a quorum. Should you wish to make a comment in this situation, you are welcome to call this number:  
(262) 473-0108.

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## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

### CONSENT AGENDA

*Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved together unless any committee member requests that an item be removed for individual consideration.*

1.) Approval of Agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of December 13th, 2023

### HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS

*No formal Committee 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 Committee discusses that particular item.*

***To make a comment during this period, or during any agenda item: On a computer or handheld device, locate the controls on your computer to raise your hand. You may need to move your mouse to see these controls. On a traditional telephone, dial \*6 to unmute your phone and dial \*9 to raise your hand.***

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1.) Delta Zeta Sorority Shed
- 2.) Water Tower Signage Repair
- 3.) Birge Fountain Funds / Conduit Account
- 4.) Territorial Oak Site
- 5.) Initiating Commission Members

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1.) New Meeting Day/Time and Approval
- 2.) Birge Fountain Anniversary Party and Special Event Rules

**3.)** Esterly Carriage House Sale

**4.)** Year's Plan for Mounds

**5.)** 5 Year Strategic Plan

**6.)** Library Showcase Display

**7.)** Introduction to New Parks & Rec Director

#### **CONSIDERATIONS / DISCUSSIONS / REPORTS**

**1.)** Effigy Mounds Report

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A quorum of the Common Council may be present. This notice is given to inform the public that no formal action will be taken at this meeting.

**Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the Office of the City Manager / City Clerk (262-473-0102) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.**

















# The Starin Park Water Tower (1889)

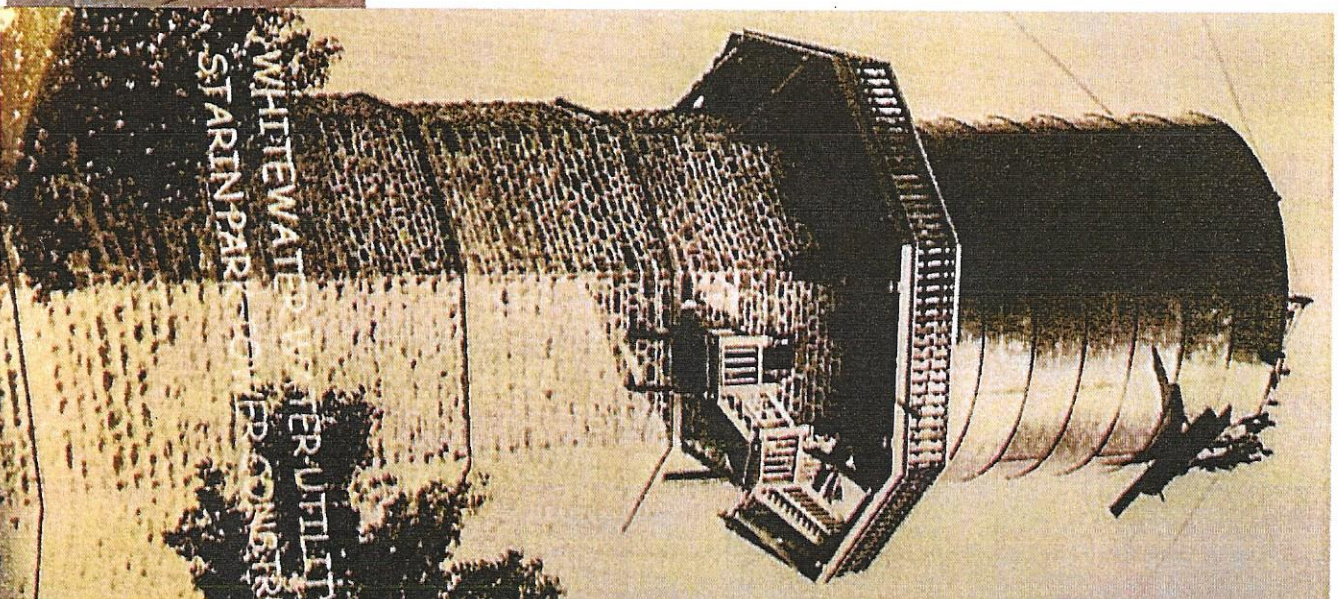
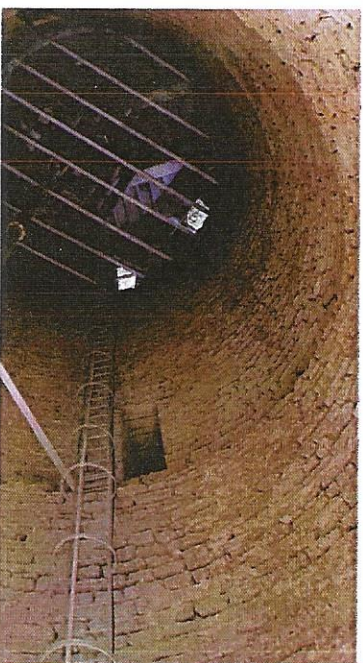
The Starin Park Water Tower is the 2nd oldest operating municipal water tower in the state of Wisconsin. The Tower was built in 1889, by C.E. Gray a company out of the Chicago area.

When originally built it was a private utility, it was turned over to the City as a public utility in 1912.

The 80 foot tall stonemasonry, supports the steel 20 foot tall water tank. The limestone octagonal base of the tower is 8 foot thick and as the structure goes up it tapers to 4 foot thick where the stonemasonry meets the steel tank.

The tank holding approximately 185,000 gallons of water. The location was chosen because it sits 50 foot higher than the surrounding area. At the time the water tower was completed it was the highest built structure in the City.

The original design had a wood observation deck around the outside. It was open to the public when originally built but closed because of shenanigans. This is why we can't have nice things people...



## The Lore of the Water Tower

*Legend has it that witches are drawn to the tower because it is centrally placed within a triangular pattern formed by the communities cemeteries.*

The lore of the Witches presumably stems for the spiritualism movement. "There's a lot of confusion between who the spiritualists were and what they were doing as opposed to other occult practices. Many of the spiritualist mediums were women. They were engaging in nontraditional activities for women, so making that step from mediums to witches was easy for some people to take, I think." Carol Cartwright

The Water Tower was built the same year the Morris Pratt Institute, a Spiritualist college established in the City of Whitewater. This likely is what spurred the lore of the "Witches of Whitewater".