

## AGENDA # 6

City of Madison, Wisconsin

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REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

**PRESENTED:** 3/19/18

TITLE: Establishing a Plan for the Confederate  
Monuments in Forest Hill Cemetery.

**REFERRED:**

**REREFERRED:**

**REPORTED BACK:**

AUTHOR: Amy Scanlon, Secretary

**ADOPTED:**

**POF:**

DATED: 3/27/18

**ID NUMBER:** 48643

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Members present were: Stuart Levitan, Chair; Anna V. Andrzejewski, Vice Chair; David WJ McLean, Richard Arnesen, Marsha A. Rummel, Lon Hill, and Katie Kaliszewski.

**A motion was made by Rummel and seconded by Andrzejewski to amend the order of the agenda to take item number 6 before items 4 through 9. The motion passed via voice vote.**

### **SUMMARY:**

*Carl Landsness, registering neither in support nor opposition and wishing to speak.*

*Terry Lipchow, of 1956 Cypress Drive, Arkdale, WI 54613, registering and wishing to speak.*

Staff drew the Commission's attention to the handouts provided electronically and as handouts. She also drew its attention to the Equal Opportunities Commission and Board of Parks Commissioners' recommendations. Levitan provided a brief summary of those decisions.

Landsness had sent an email to Alder Rummel at approximately 12:00pm on 3/19/18. Rummel, who was working, hadn't seen the email yet. As a result, it wasn't available for the Commission's review.

Landsness said that this agenda item is an opportunity disguised as a problem to think about what monuments are for, the concept of heroes, traitors, patriots, judgement, right, and wrong. He went on to say that it's an opportunity for discussion and an exploration of consciousness. He also commented that we need to examine our collective souls and the soul of our city.

Lipchow said that Madison is in possession of a jewel that no one else has. He mentioned that [confederate] soldiers didn't want to be buried here. He also mentioned his own service in the military. He referenced apparent laws that prohibit the removal of monuments.

Lipchow indicated that his family fought on both sides of the Civil War. He would like all soldiers to be recognized. He said that history must not be forgotten or it be repeated. He feels that altering monuments to soldiers should not be allowed. He referenced his differences of opinion with the mayor of Madison, notably, the mayor's alleged outlawing of the confederate flag.

He claimed that no one in the south alters monuments to soldiers. He went on to reference the fact that he once greased a flag pole to keep "kids" from stealing a confederate flag he would repeatedly erect at Forest Hill. He claimed that 95.5% of people in Wisconsin didn't know that there was a confederate monument in Madison prior to the mayor's actions.

Rummel clarified that the mayor did not pass a law that outlawed the confederate flag; it was the Common Council.

Levitan asked if the Commission minded whether he spoke, as he typically does not. They assented.

Levitan referenced the photos he provided. He feels that it is possible to honor the dead without honoring the cause they fought for. He proposed the relocation of the monument to the side area, where two markers currently exist. He proposed moving the two markers as well. He does not feel it's a "Lost Cause" monument; he feels it's a gravestone/cenotaph. He feels that the small plaque was offensive and that its removal, while procedurally incorrect, was warranted. He supports the installation of an interpretive sign.

Andrzejewski and Hill asked Levitan to specify the location change he was proposing. Levitan did, and indicated that he thinks the monument should be maintained within the walls of Confederate Rest, especially considering the fact that the Union soldiers were present for the original dedication.

Arnesen asked whether the move was just for aesthetics. Levitan said yes, and that its current location minimizes the significance of the graves.

Kaliszewski asked why it wasn't possible to move the gravestones as opposed to the cenotaph. Levitan got the impression from the Parks Superintendent that it might be possible, but not quickly.

Arnesen asked what the text on the large monument said. Levitan summarized it and then read it. Photographs were passed around displaying the text of both monuments.

Rummel feels the monuments should not reflect any celebration of the confederacy. She is comfortable with an interpretive sign, but thinks that all of the monuments should go to the State Historical Society or to the Veteran's Museum. Rummel commented that we are in a different world now, and that writing our own history is our prerogative.

McLean feels that the small plaque that was already removed should not be reinstalled. He went on to comment that the large monument should stay, as it was the first monument erected, and that Union soldiers were present at its installation and contributed to its care.

Arnesen agreed with McLean and Levitan's position. Kaliszewski noted that the large monument is really a cenotaph and is not a monument. It should be treated as a large grave marker. Andrzejewski agreed with Kaliszewski, but commented that the fact that Forest Hill Cemetery is a public space is also relevant. She supported the removal of the small plaque, as the plaque was not historic. Andrzejewski wondered about who would write the interpretive sign and felt the Landmarks Commission should have the opportunity to review the proposed text.

Levitan suggested an historian would draft something and present it to the relevant bodies.

Hill referenced the resting place as a fabric and feels moving the large piece isn't necessary, as the awkward placement should remain part of the story. He commented that the plaque should be referenced in whatever interpretive sign is installed.

Arnesen asked for clarification about the Commission's directive.

Kaliszewski referenced the Board of Parks Commissioners' decision.

**ACTION:**

A motion was made by Arnesen and seconded by Andrzejewski to recommend to the Common Council that the Landmarks Commission finds that the small plaque should not have been uninstalled without an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness and that an application should be submitted by the Common Council. Upon the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the small plaque, the Commission suggests that the plaque be offered to the WI Veteran's museum and the WI State Historical Society and not to private individuals. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Arnesen and seconded by Hill to recommend to the Common Council that the Landmarks Commission feels that the large cenotaph should be retained in Confederate Rest. The motion passed on a voice vote, with Rummel voting opposed.

A motion was made by Kaliszewski and seconded by McLean to recommend to the Common Council that the Landmarks Commission finds that an interpretive display should be installed, that the Common Council should commission its drafting by a qualified historian, and that the events surrounding the small plaque be included in the display. The Commission further stipulated that the text, appearance, and placement of the display must be reviewed and approved by the relevant bodies prior to installation. The motion passed on a voice vote.