

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Springs Commission Report

June 4, 2019

During my six years as a Commissioner on the Waukesha Landmarks Commission, I have also been the coordinator of the Springs Committee. July will be my last Landmarks meeting as well as the end of my tenure on the Springs Committee. We were the first Springs Committee appointed. There was a lot of coordination with Jeff Fortin as a city planner. The original committee consisted of myself, Alan Huelsman, and Dennis Cerretta. The latest group is made up of myself, Bob Salb, and Milt and Marilyn Hagerstrand.

The group completed many projects during this time:

- An iron grate was put up on the entrance to Acme Spring protecting it from vandals in 2013.
- In 2014, a new basement door replaced the old one at the Silurian Spring.
- After Alan and Dennis left the Landmarks Commission, it was a while until new members were added to the committee.
- In 2017, the brick and tile entry step was repaired at the Silurian Spring building entrance.
- A new sign for Hobo Spring and the Springs Era in general was placed near the spring replacing the Waukesha County Historical Society marker. This was a matter of replacing an older sign put up by the 1834 Club and Landmarks that had fallen into disrepair. The material of the sign was changed to metal in hopes of the sign lasting longer.
- The “B” in the Bethesda lettering at Bethesda Park was painted and the cleaning around the letters were done by the 1834 Club.
- In 2018, identical locks were put on all the springs so that one key could be used to open all.

- While attempting to put a new longer lock at Crystal Rock Spring, the door broke. A new door was put on.
- A new sign was placed at Acme Spring to describe its history.
- Also, a new sign was put up at Silurian Spring replacing the Historical Society's marker. Some of the wording was changed. It is our goal to have special signs at all the springs with the design and materials the same.
- In 2019, the inside ceiling paint and repair of cracks was accomplished at Silurian Spring by the committee. The 1834 Club did wall preparation and painting on the lower walls.
- The door to the Silurian Spring had been damaged by vandals pulling off the wood panels at the bottom of the door. During the winter, plywood was put up to cover that section of the door. In the spring, a piece of metal was put over the plywood, hoping to make it much more difficult to vandalize.
- Meetings were held with Ron Grall and Melissa Lipski to discuss the springs that are in the Waukesha Parks and more specifically Hobo in Frame Park (Agreement attached). Discussed security measures at all springs.
- Procedures for the Springs Committee were written and approved by the Landmarks Commission.
- The ongoing mural restoration project at Silurian facilitated by Jeff has resulted as of this time with three restored murals.
- Work was begun to nominate Buchner Spring as a local landmark. Paperwork is mostly done along with documentation. There are only two springs that are not currently Waukesha Landmarks, the other being Crystal Rock. Wording for a sign at Buchner is also in process.
- A springs sign is also in process for the Minniska Spring.

Future needs for springs:

- Tuck-pointing and painting the concrete block walls inside the Silurian is still needed. Previous painting of walls was only meant to be temporary.
- Two top stones need replacing and permanently attached at the Acme Spring.
- Landscaping needed at Acme.

- Landscaping work also needed at Minniska.
- Hobo Spring needs stonework, grading, and adding a catcher for the drain to enable easier debris cleanout. Also landscaping needed around the spring with Parks. (See attachment of agreement)

A decision will need to be made for a new coordinator. Please don't let this committee die. We need to keep it going to preserve these springs!