

Minutes of the **May 13, 2013**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held
at the Curwood Castle, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: City Treasurer Ronald Tobey, Chairman Michael Erfourth, and members Shaffer Fox, Elaine Greenway, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: Joni Forster, Paul Heimnick, Scott Newman and Don Schneider

Guests Present: Amanda Wetzel

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Erfourth.

Motion to adopt proposed agenda made by Wilson, supported by Fox and approved after the addition to old business for Curwood painting funding, painting appraisals and under new business: Friends of the River, budget, visit to city council and Castle floor refinishing.

Citizen Comments: none

Motion by Weckwert to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 8, 2013, regular meeting after correction that the Baptists are celebrating a 175th anniversary rather than 150th and clarification that Forster had authorization to buy souvenir items for Curwood Castle. Supported by Greenway and carried.

Amanda Wetzel was introduced to the group. She is in a graduate course in historical preservation and museum work at Eastern Michigan University. Amanda has volunteered to assist the commission in improving our archives and displays. Her recommendation for Curwood Castle is to recreate the main floor as Curwood would have had it, the top level as a historical center and the lower level as a media center. She commented that display panels can be expensive. She also noted that something should be done to create interest at the castle for small children. The idea of a theme such as conservation was also verbalized. Wetzel noted she would request mileage to come to the castle on weekends from Ypsilanti. Motion by Wilson to welcome Amanda and accept her offer of volunteer work and to reimburse mileage from Ypsilanti at the city prevailing rate. Second offered by Weckwert and motion carried. Wetzel was instructed that her project suggestions would be evaluated with the costs to determine if the Historical Commission would proceed.

Members were presented the March and April 2013 financial reports, with expense identification a part of discussion. Motion by Wilson to approve report, supported by Greenway and carried with dissent from Weckwert.

CultureFest2013 will commence 5-17 with a youth group at the Castle from 4-5 p.m. Mitch will doctent the evening activity from 7-9. Elaine and Mike volunteered to set up chairs at 2, and it was agreed that Mike would offer remarks at the evening event.

Home Tour 2013 reported a general public meeting will be held May 20th at 7 p.m. at the Gould House.

Motion by Wilson to sell the donated train sets at Curwood Castle. Support given by Fox and carried.

The potential donor to help the commission purchase the Curwood commissioned painting has agreed to provide funding.

Members discussed the lack of progress with the appraisal of Curwood paintings already held by the commission.

Members agreed by consensus to hold the remainder of 2013 meetings at Curwood Castle rather than the Gould House.

Chairman Erfourth again relayed the information that the budget proposal to council includes a \$20,000 tax assessment for a historical properties director. The outcome of this proposal is unknown at this time.

Weckwert informed the group of a bid received by a Lansing firm for floor refinishing and repairs at the Castle. The proposal included repair of wood trim with stain and water based varnish. It was noted there would be a guarantee of the work. Wilson suggested some references should be consulted. Motion by Weckwert to request the city have the floors refinished per this bid. Support was given by Greenway and motion carried.

Chairman Erfourth will be cleaning the cabin and asked for help on the project May 17.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey
Secretary/Treasurer