

Minutes of the **May 17, 2011**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission**
held at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: City Treasurer Ron Tobey, Chairperson Piper Brewer and members Jamie Brummel, Michael Erfourth, Shaffer Fox, Charles Wascher and Gary Wilson.

Member Absent: JoEllen Hartley, Crystal Smith, Lorraine Weckwert

Guests Present: City Manager Don Crawford

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

There were no citizen comments.

Motion by Fox to accept and place on file minutes of April 19, 2011. Supported by Erfourth and carried.

The financial report for April 2011 was reviewed. Motion by Erfourth to accept. Supported by Wascher and approved.

Chairperson Brewer presented a check for \$258.20 to the commission as ten per-cent of the proceeds from the recent Arts and Antiques sale held on the lawn by the Shiawassee Arts Center.

Although Preservation Owosso had requested to be placed on the agenda, no one was present to discuss their request. Item tabled.

There was nothing to report on the upcoming Home Tour. Members were reminded that plans would best be finalized by June to be able to proceed with the tour.

The sign-up sheet for staffing the entrance to the Curwood Castle during the Festival was circulated.

Nothing was reported on the Kiwanis Park Curwood Castle Park project. The suggestion of a portable ice skating rink was made.

The Gould House will be open from one to five on the second and fourth Sundays of the summer months staffed by a Historical Commission docent. Possibly other Sundays can be staffed by volunteers.

A quote by Jesse Farr was received to paint and repair the Gould House Carriage House for \$2,700 was presented to the commission. Motion by Wascher with second by Erfourth to accept the bid with work to begin in July. Members discussed the good price of the bid and city manager Crawford stated he would approve the project without obtaining additional bids.

Owosso Safe and Lock had been consulted about a price to change the locks at the Gould House downstairs entrances. Likely, locks can be changed for \$10.00 per lock, \$2.00 per key charge and a \$50.00 service call. Brand new mortise locks or deadbolts would be more expensive. Motion by Fox to proceed with the lock change. Support given by Brummel and carried.

A mock up for the Heritage Bridge Plaque was distributed to the group. The wording on the original plaque will be corrected by acknowledging Frank Gute's donation rather giving Fred M. Gute credit. Motion by Erfourth to send on to the Main Street and Park and Recreation committees for a sign off on design. Brummel supported and motion carried.

Members discussed the upcoming anniversary of the November 11, 1911, tornado in Owosso. Wascher reported that the Shiawassee County Historical Society is preparing a book about the event to be available this fall. Members will discuss other possible events at a later time.

Fox detailed the activities of the newly proposed "Wayfinding" system for Owosso and the surrounding areas. The project will soon be let for bids to develop the signs, ornamentation and posts that will be standardized to promote the area. The airport and Indian Trails have been included as well as efforts to include the townships and Corunna to potentially be a regional project.

Don Crawford asked permission to again locate a garden in the area where the Gould House garage once stood. He would also like to bring in some soil. Members were in agreement for this to be done.

Brewer reported that 2012 will be the 40th anniversary of the Shiawassee Arts Center. To celebrate a Woodard furniture exhibit is planned. Exhibits will include furniture, wood and metal, created throughout the 150 years Woodard has been in existence.

Erfourth mentioned that the commission should soon receive the employee involvement grant of \$530 from Fifth Third Bank. Members expressed appreciation to Erfourth for obtaining this award.

Motion to adjourn made by Brummel with Support by Wascher at 8:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer