

Minutes of the **March 15, 2011**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission**
held at the Curwood Castle, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: City Treasurer Ron Tobey, and members Jamie Brummel (7:45), Michael Erfourth, Shaffer Fox, JoEllen Hartley, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson.

Member Absent: Piper Brewer

Guests Present: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Hartley.

There were no citizen comments.

Motion by Erfourth to accept and place on file minutes of February 15, 2011. Supported by Wascher and carried.

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

The Curwood Castle copyright update will be postponed to April due to the absence of Brewer.

Hartley, previous to the meeting, distributed a list of items of concern at the Curwood Castle. Members toured the castle while discussing those concerns. The focus of the discussion centered around restoring the castle to appear as it did at the time of Curwood; building maintenance/repair; respecting, preserving and drawing attention to furnishings/items belonging to Curwood; presenting the Castle to the public in an attractive manner and promoting an experience where visitors would be impressed. Evaluating and relocating gift items were also major concerns.

Brummel arrived (7:45 p.m.).

The Castle ornament request will be postponed to the April meeting due to the absence of Brewer.

Tobey presented a request for use of the Castle for filming. Members agreed by consensus to decline participation. Members affirmed the use of the Castle for weddings by a formal booking and not mere admission donation. Members agreed to allow a senior picture to be taken on an admission donation basis.

Erfourth left (8:30 p.m.).

The Home Tour committee met last Sunday. Weckwert reported that four homeowners had preliminarily agreed for the 2011 tour, with three additional homeowners expressing interest for 2012. The event will be held the 4th Saturday of September.

Brummel reported that the Kiwanis is interested in a project at the Cabin and or Curwood Castle Park. A list of activities will be prepared and a date will be set.

Weckwert requested the minutes reflect her concern that the Historical Commission take care of its inventory, do it well or give it to someone who will preserve the items.

Motion by Wascher that after the Arts Council Sale at the Gould House, the Carriage House should be cleared of items not owned by the Historical Commission. Supported by Weckwert and carried.

Gould House use by non-profits was discussed. Fiscal responsibility by the commission for covering costs was mentioned. Motion by Weckwert that non-profit organizations using the Gould House are waived the regular rental fee and a price of \$40.00/meeting is set, with the organization to provide docents four Sundays during the summer months. Support by Brummel and carried. Members agreed that a decision must be made in the future for the focus of the Gould House, whether it is to be a museum or a facility made available to the public for events.

Members informally gave permission to Hartley to begin initial tasks at the Castle.

Motion to adjourn by Brummel at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer