

Minutes of the **February 10, 2013**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held
at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Joni Forster, and members Kerry Baker, Elaine Greenway, Sue Ludington, Jim Gutting, Justin Parker, Lorraine Weckwert and Director Mitchell Speers

Members Absent: Shawn Kiley

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

Parker moved for the approval of the agenda, supported by Greenway and carried.

The communications were brought to member's attention.

Weckwert and Ludington arrived at 7:02

Motion to accept and place on file, the minutes of January 13, 2013, was made by Parker, seconded by Ludington and accepted.

Baker reported on her conversation with Gilbert's Hardware staff regarding the purchase of a new refrigerator for Curwood Castle. Baker noted that she had been asked to put the purchase on hold after learning from Director Speers that the City Manager was looking into buying several units at one time, including a refrigerator for his apartment, and hoped to receive a discount for multiple units. Baker was informed by a Gilbert employee that no refrigerator had been purchased for the castle, but one had been purchased for the Gould House apartment. Several members voiced concern that the OHC would be charged with the purchase of a refrigerator for the Gould House, but without the consent of the Historical Commission. Speers agreed to look into the matter.

Speers gave an update on the purchase of inventory software. He noted that he hoped to have a grant completed soon and the matching funds approved by the OHC should cover the purchase of the software.

Forster appointed Greenway to Chair the 2014 Home Tour. Greenway agreed to meet with Director Speers to set a budget. Members were encouraged to contact Greenway with potential homes for the tour.

Forster reminded members that the budget was due this month and stressed the need to have items to be included in the budget brought forward. Speers gave a brief rundown of the 2014-2015 proposed budget and noted that there would be a need to raise the funds to meet the proposal. It was also noted that wifi for the castle had not been installed and Speers was informed that a vote by the commission was required. Several members said they had already done this. It was also noted that Speers and Chairperson Forster would need to sign the contract. Forster refused, noting that no volunteer should be asked to sign a city contract. Weckwert moved that members approve the purchase of Wifi for the castle and that it include the new phone line and hotspot previously agreed on. She also noted that the cost should come from the city's general fund, as these are necessary items for the Director, a city employee, to do his job. Ludington seconded and the motion carried.

Greenway reported that a \$500 pledge made by Fifth Third Bank last summer has still not been paid. Speers agreed to contact former Chair Erfourth about this matter.

Forster noted the completion of repairs to the Curwood humidor. The humidor was present for members to see, with the reviews mixed.

Speers reported that it was time to move the sleigh, currently on display at City Hall and reported on his intention to have the sleigh wrapped and stored in the Gould carriage house. Parker noted his concern with having the sleigh wrapped and noted the possible damage moisture might cause. Weckwert stressed that it was her understanding that the City Manager had agreed to leave the sleigh on long term display at City Hall. Members discussed other options for the display of the sleigh, but no solution was brought forth.

Director Speers passed out orientation notebooks to new members and encouraged the members to take the time to review the materials. A review of the bylaws was stressed.

Forster discussed the upcoming Curwood Festival and asked members to consider any special events or activities the OHC might want to promote during this event. She noted the possibility of opening the Comstock Cabin and a change in price for admission to Curwood Castle. The new cost will be \$1.00 per person, with no age restriction during the Festival.

Speers discussed the need to create an OHC website and the need to incorporate a number of page links for visitors to access. Some of the page topics would include the Home Tour, Curwood Castle, an events page/calendar and volunteer program, to name a few. Speers noted that the design company behind our current Home Tour page suggested an approximate cost of \$2,300.00 to complete such a website. Gutting agreed to look into other options and to look at completing a page using one of the free website creating sites.

Speers discussed the banners, noting that Forster had presented a possible solution several months ago. This proposal would have the OHC continue our relationship with the Shiawassee Arts Center by again, having children design the banners. The theme this time is Curwood Castle. A motion was made by Greenway and seconded by Ludington and carried. Speers agreed to discuss these arrangements with the SAC.

A discussion of a logo for the OHC was continued, with a motion by Parker to have Tyler Corbin proceed, at a cost of \$300, to design a logo for the group. Gutting seconded and the motion carried.

Weckwert discussed her desire to have 2 sofas custom made by Melco for Curwood Castle, at a cost of \$5,389.20. Baker noted that returning the main floor to its former state would not allow the OHC to hold indoor events at the castle. Gutting suggested that if we are returning the room to its original state, then it would include removing the cabinets on the east wall. Weckwert made a motion to purchase two sofas from Melco at a cost of \$5,500.00. Greenway seconded with a vote of 6-1 and the motion carried. Speers informed the group that this purchase would need to go before the city council.

Parker left at 8:30pm.

Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:32 p.m. by Greenway, supported by Ludington.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Speers
Secretary/Treasurer

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2014.