

Minutes of the **February 11, 2013**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held
at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: City Treasurer Ronald Tobey, Chairman Michael Erfourth, and members Shaffer Fox, Joni Forster, Elaine Greenway, Paul Heimnick, Scott Newman, Don Schneider, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: City Finance Director Rick Williams, Shirley Jones, Marijo Smith, Sue & Tim Schmig

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Erfourth. Introductions were made around the room.

Motion to adopt proposed agenda made by Forster, supported by Wilson and approved after the addition of Gould House discussion – Rick Williams added under old business, Curwood Painting under new business and Tea Room proposal discussion as part of citizen comments.

Citizen Comments: Shirley Jones and Marijo Smith made a proposal to establish a Victorian Tea Room on the first floor of the Gould House. Details of past experience were given along with samples of pastries shared. Members asked questions concerning hours, requirements, furnishings and expectations.

Motion by Fox to accept and place on file the minutes for the January 14, 2013, regular meeting. Supported by Newman and carried.

Members deferred discussion of the January Financial statement until February.

Chairman Erfourth reported plaster work at the Castle would possibly commence this week. Once this is completed, painting may proceed.

City Finance Director Williams was given the floor to discuss city involvement in covering expenses of the Historical Commission. Members were reminded that city funds were supplied to cover costs at the Paymaster Building, Comstock Cabin and Curwood Castle, with exception of docent wages. A brief synopsis of the acquisition of the Gould House and subsequent expenses was presented from an administrative perspective. A discussion of the role of the Historical Commission in fundraising for operation and maintenance of the Gould House ensued with differing perspectives presented. Further discussion took place concerning a business, such as a tea room for revenues to establish a sinking fund for building maintenance. City Treasurer Tobey cautioned additional revenues to cover potential tax obligation may be needed should a portion of the house be rented to a business concern.

Members were agreed to have Tobey ask the city human resources department to seek an additional docent to serve as a backup. It was noted this would not be to increase total hours, only to cover when current docents are unable to work.

Members reviewed copies of the current Historical Commission page on the city website. Wilson volunteered to review the page and bring suggestions for changes.

Chairman Erfourth commented that a Curwood commissioned painting had been offered for sale. A potential offer for a grant has been identified. Motion by Newman to prepare a proposal to obtain the painting matching up to one-half of the required price by Historical Commission funds. Support given by Greenway. Motion carried.

Motion by Fox to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. with support by Newman.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey
Secretary/Treasurer