

# OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Monday, July 13, 2015, 7:00PM Curwood Castle

## MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Greenway called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- PRESENT:** Elaine Greenway, Chair; Jennifer Mahoney, Vice Chair; Members Robert Brockway; Dean Ebert; Dennis Mahoney
- ABSENT:** Members Adrian Montague, Nick Pidek, Tracey Peltier
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairperson Greenway moved to approve agenda as presented. Member D. Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Member D. Mahoney questioned the treasurer's report – specifically General Fund Transfer and year end. Mr. Mahoney indicated that Castle Maintenance should match the General Fund Transfer.
- Member J. Mahoney motioned to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Member D. Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES:** Member D. Mahoney motioned to accept the June 8, 2015 minutes, Member J. Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- APPROVAL OF JUNE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** Member D. Mahoney motioned to accept the Special June 22, 2015 minutes, Member J. Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Gordon Pennington introduced his friend, Peter Stropol. Mr. Stropol has made a lifestyle of connecting people, and he has gotten the Owosso bug. He is fighting for the Shire! Mr. Pennington said he was glad Mr. Stropol is willing to attend the meeting and hear what we are doing with our historical assets. He is especially interested in the Home Tour, and committing resources and time and energy to helping out the Commission. Mr. Pennington said he sees great leadership and energy in the group and is really excited and proud of us. Especially in light of the challenges presented with the collapse of the ceiling at the Gould House. He stressed that there are significant amounts of institutional resources that go unallocated each year and the Commission does virtually no grant writing. He felt that unless the Commission gets grant writing going, we won't be able to move forward as a group.
- Peter Stropol then spoke saying he loves small towns and he understands the significance and validation of the board...he just loves helping out.
- Mr. Stropol then interjected that if the Commission has challenges with the budget, they should not approve it. He was adamant that no one should put their name to an official document, especially a financial one, not knowing for certain where and how the money flows.
- Member J. Mahoney suggested that we revisit and not approve the treasurer's report, indicating that in its current state it is unacceptable.
- Member J. Mahoney made a motion that the Commission reconsider the treasurer's report. Member D. Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.**

**REVISIT TREASURER'S REPORT: Jennifer Mahoney made a motion to accept the report as presented.**

**Roll Call Vote.**

**AYES: None.**

**NAYS: Members D. Mahoney, Brockway, Chairperson Greenway, Members Ebert, and J. Mahoney.**

**The Treasure's Report was not accepted.**

Chairperson Greenway suggested that Member D. Mahoney and Director Doran go to City Hall together to discuss the Budget with City staff. Member J. Mahoney suggested that we utilize Member D. Mahoney's previous board and financial experience to the Commission's advantage..

**Member Ebert made a motion to send Member D. Mahoney and Director Doran to City Hall to discuss the budget with City staff. Member Brockway supported. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Defer to old and new business.

Mr. Pennington then requested that the Commission move the last Citizens Comments so that he could attend a prior engagement. Although a motion was not made, entire Commission agreed.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:  
(out of order)**

Mr. Pennington discussed the advertising and media plan for 2015 Home Tour. He believes that this is the singular event for the OHC. We are only nine weeks away, and he would like to come back with specific advertising team. He would include for example, automobile clubs. He will be meeting with Comcast, advertising buy.....if we get the right people and make them aware. The Commission needs to have all of these details in mind. How do we get House and Garden, This Old House, etc. and make them aware of the Home Tour? It is a very important and timely event. We should think about carriage rides, historic bus tours, historic bike tour, a potting zoo....where children could plant topiaries, a Garden Walk, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Home Tour Houses/ Calendar -
- Gould House and Curwood Castle Gardens and interior and Vision -
- Gould House Repairs to the ceiling and Gould House

Member Ebert then interjected and explained his vision of what is going to be great and profitable for Owosso....His question is what is the Commission's going to be? What could it be? His vision of the Gould House is apartments upstairs and weddings and functions downstairs. He passed around photos of other event venues in historical locations, indicating his desire to have Gould House follow one of those models. He was concerned that the Commission is lacking a vision and direction.

- Collapse of Gould House ceiling – insurance update/ cleaning ADDITION
- Still looking for accountant to fill Commission position

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- OHC Calendar – July, August and September
  - July 30 – Moonlight Market on Curwood Castle Lawn 5 to 10 pm
  - August 9 – Bikefest 8 to 11 – complementary entrance to Castle for participants
  - August 22 – Tour Our Town – Curwood Castle and Gould House from 10 am to 4 pm
  - September 11 – Art Walk – artists will be showing art in Curwood Castle
  - September 19 – OHC Home Tour

- Additions to 2015 Home Tour Committee – Jeff Deason, Piper Brewer, Josh Adams, Aaron Maike
- Deaccession of Halloween Pumpkin -
- OHC Website BETA – editing
- Move forward with Nonprofit Network initiative – schedule after Home Tour
- Advertising and Media plan for 2015 Home Tour –
- Jeanine & Donna – another Henry Ford trip to Owosso

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

See above

**ADJOURN:**

**Several members left the room without notice during the discussion of New Business. Those members did not return and the meeting ended without a quorum.**

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Robert V. Doran, Historical Director