

MINUTES OF THE OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

Present were members Kerry Baker, Sue Osika, Jennifer Mahoney, Lorraine Weckwert, and chair person Elaine Greenway. Arriving at 7:05 was James Gutting. Also present was OHC's newly hired Director Robert Doran, as well as City Manager Donald Crawford and docent Denice Grace. Sue Ludington and Heather Deason were members absent.

Elaine asked for approval of the agenda with changes, with Sue Osika making the motion with Kerry Baker seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

A correction was made to the minutes of August 11 to add Sue Osika to the list of member present. Sue Osika then made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Mahoney.

There again was NO Treasurer's Report for reference for commissioners of the OHC; This being the fourth month without said document.

As the Owosso Historic Home Tour was imminent, Elaine gave a report as to the progress of this event. The webpage has been updated, the printed ticket booklets arrived and are available for sale at the Chamber of Commerce and at City Hall. Elaine advised Ann Bentley of the Oak Hill Cemetery to have approximately 500 information sheets available. Elaine commented that she has sold a total of \$3125.00 worth of ads for the Home Tour booklet.

Lorraine Weckwert, as the commissioner in charge of Curwood Castle, reported on the progress of the restoration and refurbishing of the Castle and Curwood's office. She noted that the Bear Skin Rug, which is being donated by the museum of Central Michigan University, will be delivered in the next few days. For reference, the moose head had been installed a few weeks ago and the custom sofas which replicate those shown in a vintage photo with Curwood present in the photo, have been delivered, all in the past two weeks. Melco, who constructed and upholstered the sofas found a cost overrun, which they are donating to the City. A request was made that our new director should certainly send a letter of recognition and thanks to Melco for both their interest, their professionalism, and their kind gift to the public interest.

The OHC new hire, Robert Doran, Historic Facilities Director, introduced himself with a brief synopsis of his background. Conversation ensued with Robert suggesting that we prioritize our short and long term goals. It was indicated that the Commission had done just that with the immediate priority being the Curwood Castle restoration and refurbishing, as it is Owosso's most iconic building and image of the community, with the goal of making it a first rate museum. Robert also stated he had ideas for outreach for young people at universities and colleges.

Donald Crawford was present in order to discuss bills, specifically: Accent Hardwood Floors in an amount larger than the original bid as another coat of varnish had to be applied for a good finish to the floors, of \$8,631.60. (\$800.00 above original estimate); Ludington Electric in the amount of \$323.36; Log Cabin Taxidermy in the amount of \$350.00 for adjustment to the Moose head; Daystarr for \$129.81 to reconnect the phone and internet wires at the Castle which were relocated when the floors were refinished; and Crooked Tree Nursery for \$500, which was the amount estimated to clear the old plantings from the East side of the Gould House. Motion by James Gutting, second by Kerry Baker to approve payment of the above bills. Approved unanimously.

***Correction to the minutes was made at the October 13, 2014 regular meeting to specify that the above motion included that Commissioner Mahoney was granted authority to use a \$500 donation to purchase, design and plant a perennial garden on the east side of the Gould House using Crooked Tree Nursery as vendor for the materials.**

Also received was a bill for the software Past Perfect used for inventory cataloging and inventory control for our artifacts and collections, including a digital camera, which is used for the same purpose. These items were ordered and to be paid for by a grant from the Cook Family Foundation. Letter of thanks has already been sent. The Cook Family Foundation Grant also included items needed for storage and preservation of the artifacts in OHC collection such as acid free paper, acid free boxes, yet to be determined and ordered.

Brown Plumbing and Heating has an estimate pending with OHC for three furnaces. James Gutting was the Commissioner in charge of this project and will follow up on the progress or lack thereof, of this installation.

James Gutting reported that Second Chance Wood of Vernon has offered a donation of a cart to be made for the Bell which originally hung in the fire tower of Owosso City Hall and Fire Department in the 1880's when it was located on the se corner of Park and Main.

Lorraine Weckwert asked for approval to purchase materials to re-create the sheer curtains at all the windows indicated in a vintage photo at Curwood Castle. She had found the sheer material at a savings of 75 percent off the price as the material was a discontinued item. Needed are 43 yards of material at \$3.74 cents a yard. Motion by James Gutting, second by Lorraine for said purchase. Approved unanimously. Volunteers, including Lorraine, will construct the curtains.

Jennifer Mahoney reported on the honey bee situation at the Gould House. She and her husband, who are bee keepers, suggested that they wait until spring to remove the hive and relocate the queen, due to seasonal hibernation of the hive.

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Weckwert, substitute and very temporary Secretary