

Minutes of the **September 10, 2012**, 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 Joni Forster, Shaffer Fox, Paul Heimnick, Scott Newman, Don Schneider, Karen Stadler, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Erfourth.

Member Forster asked for the addition of an update on entrance signs to the agenda. Tobey asked that under new business, two items be included: Castle Telephone and Curwood Festival Presentation. Motion by Forster to adopt the agenda with the additions. Support given by Stadler and approved.

There were no citizen comments.

The motion by Forster to accept and place on file the minutes of the August 13, 2012, meeting with the correction of the bid source of Hi-Quality Glass rather than Hodge Glass. Support given by Wilson and approved.

Motion by Wilson to accept and place on file the August 27, 2012, special meeting minutes. Schneider provided the second and motion carried.

Fox and Newman arrived.

Chairman Erfourth noted that the honeybees at the Gould House remained an issue. Fox reported that the pest control company hired for the job had done all they were going to do. Fox was charged with finding another company to address the bees. It was noted no invoice had been received from the original company.

Members discussed the Lexon application to the Comstock Cabin. Several members had visited Corunna's Historical Village to view their cabin. Since the Corunna cabin does not have window sashes and Hi-Quality recommended their original treatment for the Owosso Cabin, motion was made by Forster to accept the Hi-Quality Glass bid for \$364.30 to install Lexon on the Comstock Cabin windows. Support was given by Fox and approved. Chairman Erfourth will contact Hi-Quality Glass with the outcome.

The soon to be realized issue of falling leaves was presented with the discussion of keeping the Gould House grounds presentable. Member Fox will seek out a bid for leaf raking as well as a separate bid or source for gardening maintenance and pruning around the House. This will be brought back at the October meeting.

Tobey presented the information that the city of Owosso offices will be transitioning to a new phone system. A result will necessitate the selection of an alternative stand alone system for the Castle, which is presently an extension of the city system. After discussion, Chairman Erfourth volunteered to seek out a cell-phone quote that would incorporate internet capabilities.

Weckwert arrived.

It was noted Curwood Festival will be meeting Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to make financial presentations to those organizations participating in the vendor sponsorship this past June. Chair Erfourth will attend the event to receive the Historical Commission check.

Erfourth reported that city entrance signs had been accepted by the city and would be replaced as new signage was approved and agreements with property owners confirmed. It was also noted DPW is expected to place the heat tape system into the castle gutters yet this fall.

Heimnick arrived.

An update on the bylaws revision progress was requested. Member Fox indicated a willingness to go over the present document to make recommendation to the full commission for needed updates.

Members discussed the advantages of merging our castle docent position into more of a director position. Concerns with compensation and employee status were given. A more finalized document of duties, expectations, funding and scope of authority will be developed to further advance this issue.

A consensus of the membership concluded that the status of the Gould House and its uses must take a back seat for the present time as ideas for the directorship are developed and implemented, and a focus centered on Curwood Castle takes the forefront.

Motion by Weckwert to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Supported by Fox

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey
Secretary/Treasurer