

Minutes of the **September 20, 2011**, regular meeting  
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held  
at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: City Treasurer Ronald Tobey, Chairperson Piper Brewer, and members Shaffer Fox, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher and Lorraine Weckwert.

Members Absent: Michael Erfourth, JoEllen Hartley, Gary Wilson and vacancy

Guests Present: David Shorter, Director, Steam Railroading Institute

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

There were no citizen comments.

David Shorter was introduced and made a presentation of the mission and plans for the Steam Railroading Institute. Members affiliated with the Historic District agreed to work with him regarding historical district designations and also Commission members for new signage options for the Institute.

Motion by Wascher to accept and place on file minutes of August 16, 2011. Supported by Fox and approved.

Motion by Weckwert to accept the August 2011 Treasurer's Report. Supported by Smith and approved.

Smith updated the commission on the trip to Massachusetts to obtain the Curwood book donations. A trailer will not have to be rented. Books will be unloaded September 26, at 8:30 a.m., and placed in the Castle on pallets. It was agreed to hold the October meeting at Curwood Castle to discuss a plan for processing the books and holding a fundraiser.

Brewer presented the check from the Curwood Festival for \$192.46 for our participation as a sponsor.

Brewer relayed that Erfourth is still planning the repainting of Gould House porches. The condition of the carpet on the Washington Street apartment entrances was noted and Erfourth will be asked to replace the runner at the time of painting.

A proposal to clear the drive and private sidewalks at the Gould House by Millennium Lawn and Snow Service for \$25 per occurrence was presented by Tobey. Motion by Fox to accept this proposal with support by Wascher. Motion carried. Tobey was asked to verify that the back door entrance can also be included.

Owosso Music Teachers Association has requested use of the Gould House next April. They asked that the provision for providing docents be dropped for their rental. Motion by Weckwert to charge OMTA a flat \$100.00 for a one time use of the Gould House. Support by Fox. Discussion. At the vote there were two in favor, one opposed and one abstention. Motion failed due to lack of majority. A use request by Musicale is also pending. Members chose to review the policy at the next meeting.

A request by the Garden Club to remove an overgrown shrub in the rear of the Gould House property was accepted by consensus.

Weckwert commented on the entrance signs placed by the Commission at the east and west entrances to the city. In April, members chose to delay replacement due to development of "way finding" designs by Main Street. Weckwert relayed that these decisions would not prohibit replacement of the current designs, but the condition of those signs warranted removal if not replacement. Motion by Weckwert to replace one sign, with support by Wascher. Tobey commented that the item was not on the agenda for discussion and that it had originally been decided to discuss in October's meeting. Members agreed to defer it to the October agenda.

Weckwert also commented regarding the storage of items in the Paymaster Building by the Main Street organization.

Chairman Brewer adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer