

Minutes of the **January 13, 2014**, regular meeting  
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held  
at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Joni Forster, and members Kerry Baker, Sue Luddington, Jim Gutting and Director Mitchell Speers

Members Absent: Shawn Kiley

Guests Present: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Forster.

Weckwert arrived at 7:04 p.m

7:05 p.m. member Elaine Greenway arrived

Greenway moved agenda approval, supported by Baker and carried.

Citizen Comments: N/A

The communications were brought to member's attention.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of December 9, 2013, was made by Greenway, seconded by Weckwert and accepted.

Baker reported on follow-up research into the purchasing a refrigerator for Curwood Castle and members considered three units available from Gilbert's True Value. Placement of a refrigerator in the kitchen area was discussed, as the location of the previous model did not work well. Members agreed to revisit this again and Baker agreed to continue her research.

7:18 member Parker arrived

Speers reported on the repairs needed for the humidor at Curwood Castle. As the humidor belonged to James Oliver Curwood, members felt the repairs were necessary. Parker moved that the repairs be made by Rex Calder and up to \$200 be allocated to complete the job. Luddington seconded the motion and the motion passed, but was opposed by Baker.

Speers gave a brief report on the purchase of inventory software. While \$800 has been approved for this software, both the suggested program and the desired program exceed this amount. Speers noted that they may be matching funds for the software and Parker stressed that insurance benefit of such a program. Members agreed to have Speers seek a grant for the desired software. Gutting agreed to work with Speers on inventory.

Weckwert discussed a fundraising venture proposed by Owosso Main Street. The Proposal involves the sale of designer drinking glasses, which would feature the image of three of the OHC's properties: the Gould House, the Comstock Cabin and Curwood Castle. Owosso Main Street provided the designs for each building, along with a formal request to use the images. Unanimous permission was granted.

Chairperson Forster discussed the need to have the OHC annual budget in place for the February meeting and noted that she had not received any proposals or recommendations. Weckwert suggested the members begin with an overview of the needed building repairs.

Possible Comstock Cabin repairs include: Steps, electrical, exterior lighting (LED). bookcase, shutters.

Possible Paymaster repairs include: Steps, caulk around windows, clapboard repair, indoor lighting.

Possible Gould House repairs include: Porches/steps, plaster repair, interior painting.

Possible Curwood Castle repairs include: Floor refinishing, exterior lighting.

Other budget items discussed included preservation of painting, furniture for Curwood Castle

Director Speers informed the group that he is in the process of putting together a Volunteer Program package, with the help of docent Denice Grace.

Director Speers also noted that the Michigan Museums Association has recommended that participants book their rooms early, as they are expected to fill up. Members agreed that this could be a problem and approved that Director Speers should attend.

Chairperson Forster informed members that she and Director Speers are working on a OHC Orientation Packet for new members and that a tour of OHC properties and discussion were planned for all members.

Chairperson Forster discussed the possibility of a "tea" fundraising event for the Gould House. Member Luddington suggested that this might be a good Spring event, while Gutting suggested that it might work well as a quarterly event. Forster agreed to look into this more and member gutting volunteered to assist.

Members discussed the possibility of moving future OHC meetings to a new day or time. Member Parker could have a conflict with the current day, but noted that there was no need to make a decision at this time.

Chairperson Forster discussed the possibility of adding a Jr. Commissioner to the group, as a means of reaching out to a younger audience. Member Baker suggested that a High School student might be interested in joining.

Director Speers discussed his conversation with Agnew Graphics surrounding banners which had been approve last summer. Director Speers agreed to forward an email from Agnew Graphics to members, in order to let them see the work that had been completed.

Member Parker recommended that the OHC adopt a logo for use in future events, activities and letterhead. Parker agreed to contact Tyler Corbin to discuss the idea.

Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:54 p.m. by Greenway, supported by Parker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mitchell Speers  
Secretary/Treasurer