

Minutes of the **March 11, 2013**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held
at the Curwood Castle, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: City Treasurer Ronald Tobey, Chairman Michael Erfourth, and members Shaffer Fox, Joni Forster, Elaine Greenway, Paul Heimnick, Scott Newman, Don Schneider, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Lorraine Austin, coordinator of CultureFest 2013; Don Crawford, Owosso City Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Erfourth.

Motion to adopt proposed agenda made by Forster, supported by Wilson and approved after the addition of CultureFest before old business, Curwood painting under old business, and Forster donation under new business.

Citizen Comments: none

Motion by Weckwert to accept and place on file the minutes for the February 11, 2013, regular meeting. Supported by Greenway and carried.

Members were presented the January 2013 financial report. Discussion concerning the Castle roof repair. Member Forster commented that the copper flashing was to be soldered rather than caulked as apparently was done. Concern was expressed that this would serve only as a temporary repair. The City Manager was asked to investigate. Motion by Heimnick to approve report, supported by Wilson and carried with dissent from Weckwert and Forster.

Schneider arrived at 7:08.

Guest Lorraine Austin was given the floor to discuss CultureFest2013. A request is being made to use the Castle on the evening of May 17 for a book reading by Bonnie Jo Campbell. Over the course of the weekend, seven organizations will host separate events to the public for free. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau is also involved. It is proposed that the event will run from 7-9 that evening. Motion by Forster to have the Castle available for CultureFest 2013 as requested. Support by Weckwert and approved. It was noted that the painting project should be underway soon to be completed by the event date.

Members were distributed copies of the bylaw update proposal prepared by the city manager. Members discussed some areas of concern with the rewrite. The issue will again be addressed at the next meeting after members have additional time to review.

A request was made to place the issue of a more formal Foundation or Endowment on the next agenda.

Members were presented copies of a budget discussion by City Manager Crawford in addition to the proposed budget in the packet from Treasurer Tobey. The Crawford proposal was different in organization from past budgeting. Many questions were posed, but no conclusion was reached. Member Newman inquired if a decision must be reached that evening to which the city manager replied it did not. Chairman Erfourth and City Manager Crawford indicated they would be in discussion on the matter.

A request was made to have the fine arts held by the commission appraised. Motion by Weckwert to use a representative from DuMouchelles to appraise the painting collection at a cost not to exceed \$200 per hour, including travel time. They would be asked to place a value and to evaluate condition. City Manager Crawford indicated that the city insurance carrier would pay to have the pieces appraised and the commission would not need to expend funds for this project. Motion died for lack of second. Members Weckwert and Newman will work with the city manager on this issue.

Member Newman left at 8:52 p.m.

Chairman Erfourth distributed a copy of a letter under his name and title to the Shiawassee Arts Council Board of Directors expressing displeasure with their announcement of holding a Home Tour on September 21st. The Mayor and Council Members will be cc'd with this letter. Erfourth also announced the Home Tour Face book page for the Historical Commission had been created. The Commission Home Tour will be held on September 21st and progress is being made in planning the event.

Member Wilson left at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Forster with second by Fox to accept donation of an Owosso Carriage Company Stanhope Portland cutter from Larry Kramer, and English horsehair lap robe from Elizabeth Mae Baker. Approved.

Motion by Forster with second by Fox to accept donation of Louisa Gould materials from Michael Donahue.

Members were informed of a request by CMU public television to film a segment for their program Destination Michigan later in March. Members agreed by consensus to allow this filming even considering the present status of the building.

Erfourth announced that the carpet would be removed from the Castle at the weekend. Support was solicited from this project. City Manager Crawford offered the DPW to perform the work of carpet removal.

Curwood Festival has approved a small book table outside of the Castle during the festival this June.

An answer concerning the Pioneer Re-enactors serving as docents to keep Comstock Cabin open will be forthcoming.

Member Weckwert brought attention to the fact that the Forster family had donated a microwave, flat screen television and VHS/DVD player to the Curwood Castle from the estate of her brother. Members expressed appreciation and an acknowledgement letter will be sent.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. by Weckwert, Supported by Forster.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey
Secretary/Treasurer