

Minutes of the **March 10, 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 Ludington, James Gutting, Lorraine Weckwert, **Justin Parker, Elaine Greenway** and Director Mitchell Speers

Members Absent: (1 vacancies)

Guests Present: Michael ~~Erforth~~ Erfourth and Amy Kirkland

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

7:02 p.m. Greenway arrived.

Gutting asked to have the website added to the agenda, Baker added castle floors and Weckwert added the sofas. Gutting moved to approve the updated agenda, supported by Baker and carried.

City Clerk Kirkland reviewed the Open Meeting Act with members and clarified several details, including the penalties for violating the act. Kirkland noted that the act is intended to promote "openness in government".

7:20 p.m. Parker arrived.

Director Speers gave a brief report, updating members with regards to progress on a variety of topics. Topics included grant progress, an upcoming speaker event, new sales items and a possible partnership with the Shiawassee District Library.

The communications were brought to member's attention.

Motion to accept and place on file Regular minutes of February 10, 2014, was made, but member Gutting asked for corrections. Director Speers noted the correction, member Greenway moved to accept the corrected minutes and seconded by Ludington and accepted.

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 27, 2014, was made. Greenway asked for a correction, noted by Director Speers and Gutting moved to accept the updated minutes, seconded by Baker and accepted.

Baker gave an update on purchasing a refrigerator for Curwood Castle. Gutting moved to allow Baker up to \$800 from the Buildings and Grounds budget, to be used toward the purchase of a refrigerator from Gilbert's True Valve. Greenway seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Director Speers gave an update on the Inventory Software Grant, noting that the granting foundation had asked Speers to hold off on the proposal, in order that they might review it prior to submitting. Speers noted that the foundation had contacted him only two weeks ago and suggested that they might be able to commit to more monies than the grant is asking for. Gutting discussed using an app to complete the inventory process and showed members an example of how this could be done. Gutting moved that the grant language be updated to

include "other" software options (other than PastPerfect previously voted on), seconded by Baker, one opposed, and the motion carried.

Greenway gave an update on the upcoming Home Tour and a possible partnership with Kiwanis. The partnership would have Kiwanis build a Victorian shed/dollhouse and raffle it off doing the tour, with 20% of the proceeds coming to the Owosso Historical Commission. Greenway moved to accept this proposal, seconded by Parker and passed with one opposed.

Speers noted the success of work completed by members Baker, Greenway, Gutting and Weckwert on the 2014-2015 budget, submitted on March 3rd.

Gutting discussed an option for the OHC website and Chairperson Forster noted that the appearance needed to be in line with the Home Tour site. Gutting moved to allow up to \$500 for the further development of a website he has been working on, there was no second.

Baker noted her conversation with Mr. Sandless and the possibility of having him do the castle floors. Members discussed getting a quote from him.

Weckwert showed members the materials to be used on the Curwood sofas. Members overwhelmingly noted their pleasure with the materials.

Director Speers discussed the piano housed at the Gould House. The piano, owned by the Musicale group, is located in the main room of the lower floor and takes up a great deal of space. Motion made by Gutting to have Director Speers send a letter to the ~~Musical~~ **Musicale** group, informing them of our plans to use the space for events and seeking to have them remove the piano by September 1, 2014. Seconded by Baker and passed.

Speers opened a discussion for a possible event during the Friday night parade during Curwood Festival. Gutting to look into this further.

The Gould House apartment rental agreements were discussed, along with the need to make updates to the apartments. A motion was made by Gutting to have Director Speers send a letter to the renters, in order to arrange a date to have the apartments inspected. Seconded by Ludington and carried, one opposed.

Speers handed out copies of the Castle and Gould House rental agreements and members agreed to look these over and to discuss further at a future date.

Weckwert discussed the offer of donation of a Victrola and a sewing machine. Gutting moved to accept these items and Ludington seconded. One opposed.

Director Speers discussed the continuing problem with the furnace for the lower level of the Gould House. The offer of a furnace for the library was discussed, with Parker agreeing to take a look at the unit, with Gutting to assist. Parker moved to have furnace #1 and #3 replaced at a cost up to \$4,999.00, seconded by Gutting and carried.

Greenway left at 9:15 p.m.

The need of a system to supply hot water to Curwood Castle was discussed. Parker discussed a "point of origin" system and Weckwert moved that up to \$1,000.00 be spent on such a system to supply hot water to both the castle bathroom and kitchen and that a maintenance program be put in place. Gutting seconded and the motion carried.

Members discussed the purchase of an easel to display painting and other items during events and on other occasions. Parker moved to have Speers purchase and easel for up to \$250. Gutting seconded and the motion passed. One opposed.

Chairperson Forster the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
~~Ronald J. Tobey~~ **Mitchell Speers**
Secretary/Treasurer