

Minutes of the **October 14, 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 Kerry Baker, Joni Forster, Shaffer Fox, Elaine Greenway, Scott Newman, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: (1 vacancy)

Guests Present: Mayor Ben Frederick, Councilperson Chris Eveleth

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Erfourth.

Newman moved agenda approval, supported by Greenway and carried.

Citizen Comments: Mayor Frederick thanked the Commission for the recent home tour, speaking generously about its success. He stated he had been in communication with Chairman Erfourth concerning a vision for increased opportunities for involvement with commission membership by limiting service time. He also announced his selection for the annual award for contributions to the community, The Citizen of the Year Award. Shaffer Fox is to be the 2013 recipient. He was congratulated and Fox responded with remarks of gratitude.

Erfourth opened the floor for nominations for Chair person for the next year. Greenway nominated Joni Forster, with second by Fox. There were no other nominations. Approved unanimously.

Nominations for Vice-chair were solicited by Erfourth. Baker nominated Greenway, supported by Newman. With no other nominations, members approved the nominee unanimously.

Erfourth provided comments regarding his tenure on the commission, his chairmanship, and the work of the commission over the past year. Wilson also commented regarding his involvement with the commission since 2005 as his term soon comes to a close.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of September 9, 2013, was moved by Weckwert, seconded by Newman and accepted.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of the September 11, 2013, special meeting was made by Greenway, seconded by Baker and approved.

The August and September Financial Reports were reviewed but not adopted due to lack of motion.

As members discussed the recent home tour, favorable comments were reported received from both restaurants and realtors, who experienced increased business activity. Home Tour Co-chair Weckwert recommended the Castle event was unnecessary, although successful. Fox recommended the website template and ticket booklet DVD be obtained from Tyson Rude for future maintenance and our records.

Erfourth and Weckwert were involved with interviews of potential director candidates today. Both reported the field narrowed to 3 or 4 candidates. If a consensus can not be made

within the present interview committee, second interviews will be conducted with a new interview panel. New chair Forster and member Wilson agreed to be available if needed for this task.

Greenway left at 8:15 p.m.

Baker presented a check from The Mitchell Foundation for \$500.00 to be used for perennials and shrubs at the Gould House gardens. Funds must be used for this purpose under the coordination of Baker and Forster. Members expressed appreciation for this grant and Tobey was requested to formally thank the Foundation.

The Gould House grounds will need to have arrangements for leaf raking this fall. Some members suggested they just be left. Baker mentioned she might do some raking.

Baker left at 8:21 p.m.

Forster reported communication requesting the Commission participate with a Christmas event at the Gould House and/or Historic Park. She suggested an open house at the Gould House as a one-time only activity. Weckwert suggested a toy makers shop in the Paymaster building, pioneer Christmas at the Cabin and Santa at the Castle. Some concerns were expressed for the time commitment and effort for this approach. No plans were finalized.

Forster left at 8:28 p.m.

Newman briefly outlined the necessity of a three pronged approach to our collection of fine art; security, preservation and climate control. He asked the topic to be placed on the November agenda to discuss further.

The effort to set a date for the Home Tour in 2014 resulted in a consensus that September 20 would be selected.

Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:40 p.m. by Newman, supported by Weckwert.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald J. Tobey  
Secretary/Treasurer