

Minutes of the **September 11, 2013**, special 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, Elaine Greenway, Scott Newman, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson

Members Absent: Joni Forster, Shaffer Fox (1 vacancy)

Guests Present: Lorraine Austin, Tom Cook, John Sprague

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Wilson.

Citizen Comments: Guest Tom Cook indicated he wished to address the group sometime during the meeting and was advised he was listed on the agenda.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of August 12, 2013, was moved by Newman, seconded by Greenway and accepted.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of the August 28, 2013, special meeting was made by Newman, seconded by Wilson and approved.

Motion by Wilson to accept the July 2013 Treasurer's Report was seconded by Newman. Motion carried with dissent from Weckwert.

Tom Cook was introduced as representing Friends of the Shiawassee River. The FOSR presented a proposal to use the basement of Curwood Castle for office and educational space in collaboration with the Historical Commission focusing on the conservation aspects of James Oliver Curwood. Members were informed that FOSR was in a growth phase and there was the potential for programming at the Castle. FOSR currently has one full-time and one part-time employee, as well as volunteer workers. The proposal was for a two year duration and offered compensation of \$300 per month. All members were receptive to collaborative efforts, but opinions varied as to the merits of this particular offer at this time. Chairman Erfourth relayed the Historical Commission's vision for the use of the basement, but also sited the low impact of the proposal with the potential for needed revenue and the new audience that might be attracted to the building. Newman relayed that space in the basement was already lacking for plans in development. Weckwert added that displays were current ready to be positioned in the area and the current use as a Curwood movie theatre for guests. Greenway agreed in affirming a vision of interaction with other community organizations but also expressed the need for the space for commission use. Baker stated her opinion that office space in a historical museum was incompatible. Wilson argued that Curwood's conservation initiatives would outlast and surpass his literary credentials, that the sharing of the space with FOSR was a thoughtful and exciting initiative. Motion by Wilson to grant FOSR office space in Curwood Castle as proposed for a two year period. Motion failed due to lack of support, since chairman Erfourth was unable to provide a second.

Newman left 8:01 p.m.

Lorraine Austin spoke on behalf of Culture Fest. There is a meeting, September 25 at 10 a.m. for a discussion of new programs. Motion by Wilson to make Gould House meeting space available to the Culture Fest organization in an ongoing basis at no charge. Supported by Greenway and approved. The September 25th meeting will be scheduled at

the Gould House. Motion by Wilson to deputize Lorraine Austin as a docent for the purpose of building staffing during these meetings. This failed due to lack of support.

Members were reminded of the Art Walk on Friday with the unveiling of the Hoskins' painting. Home Tour tickets will also be sold during this event.

Home Tour last minute details were fielded by Greenway and Weckwert. Members agreed by consensus to submit payment for special event insurance needed for the Home Tour to be conducted at the Lebowsky Center. Greenway expressed her belief that it should not be charged against the Home Tour proceeds. Motion by Wilson to officially confirm authorization for Erfourth to set up a Pay Pal account tied to the Historical Commission checking account for the purpose of Home Tour ticket sales. Support by Weckwert and approved. The Detroit Free Press, The Flint Journal, The Argus Press and TV 12 have or will have advertising of the event. A pre-sale count will be made and distributed at the end of the week.

Wilson moved to accept loan from Mitchell Speers of a Curwood desk for docent use at Curwood Castle. Support by Weckwert and carried. It was noted this loan will be documented

Chairman Erfourth noted that his term as city councilperson would be ending with the November election. Bylaws for the Commission specify officer elections in October. Members were encouraged to be prepared for a transition.

Wilson left at 8:37 p.m. leaving lack of a quorum to continue.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey
Secretary/Treasurer