

Minutes of the **June 9, 2014**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held
at the Curwood Castle, 7:00 p.m.

Members: Chairperson Joni Forster, Kerry Baker, Sue Ludington, James Gutting, Lorraine Weckwert, Justin Parker and Director Mitchell Speers

Members Absent: (1 vacancy)

Guests Present: Don Crawford

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Forster, but there was no quorum.

7:03 Ludington and Gutting arrived, establishing a quorum.

7:05 Weckwert arrived.

Chairman Forster turned to the agenda, with several members making additions. Forster asked for approval of the agenda with additions, Weckwert moved to approve, seconded by Gutting and accepted.

Chairman Forster proceeded to the approval of the minutes with corrections. Director Speers noted the errors and Parker moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ludington and accepted.

City Manager, Don Crawford, discussed the DIG project and showed members proposed plans for the Curwood Park area. Crawford informed member that the June 1st ground breaking date had been extended and several members asked questions. Question topics included: storm runoff, a rain garden, lighting and the river bank wall.

The communications were brought to member's attention and Chairperson Forster noted the castle wages and the need to increase income. Weckwert discussed how events could help in this area and a Curwood 5k run was suggested.

Director Speers updated members on several events and activities that had taken place in the past month. Items included: donations of a Curwood dish set and the offer of a Curwood desk, the upcoming TOT event featuring the film "Spellbound", addition of a new phone and printer at the castle, the hanging of the castle banners and problem with the banners, the announcement to begin the refinishing castle floors, and that the updated furnace installation estimate for the Gould House had been received.

After reviewing the furnace bid, member Parker noted his concern with the cost of installation of the lower level "library" furnace, moved to decline the offer and to proceed with the original estimate from Brown's Plumbing & Heating for 3 new furnaces and an air condition unit for the lower level, with a total cost of \$9,800.00. Motion was seconded by Baker and passed.

The banners were also discussed and members noted their desire to have a boarder added to the banners, which were too short to hang properly from the park light poles. Director Speers agreed to contact Agnew Graphics regarding the correction.

Chairperson Forster directed members to updates of old business. With Greenway absent, Forster directed the discussion of the Home Tour to member Ludington. Ludington informed members that the focus of the tour had been changed to the "down town" area and listed several businesses that will be featured during the tour.

Forster noted that there had still been no update to the bylaws.

Gutting discussed the website, with Speers and Gutting agreeing to look into the cost of maintaining a website.

Director Speers agreed to put out a press release, noting the closing of Curwood Castle from July 21, 2014 to August 2, in order to have the floors refinished.

Members Gutting and Parker discussed the former city hall bell and designs for making a wooden A-frame to support the bell.

Weckwert discussed the bench outside of the castle and noted the possibility of coordinating with the Splash Park construction, in order to have a cement pad poured under the castle bench. Director Speers agreed to see if this could be arranged.

Purchase of the moose head was discussed and member Parker noted that, as it was now certain that the moose head in question would fit into the castle, that members should proceed with the purchase of a moose head. Parker moved to have Director Speers purchase the moose head from eBay, using two donations given specifically for this purchase (a \$1,000 gift and a \$2,100 gift). The purchase price of this moose head is \$2,500, plus a shipping fee of \$600, for a total of \$3,100.00. Motion was seconded by Ludington and passed.

Chairperson Forster brought up the budget and noted that the fiscal year would close at the end of the month. Director Speers agreed to get members the latest numbers in order to know what is left in the current budget.

Progress with Woodard Station was discussed, with member Weckwert noting that the OHC intern could be more involved and asked Director Speers to increase his supervision and involvement.

Chairperson Forster turned the floor over to member Parker, who with regret, proceeded to read his resignation letter to the Commission members.

Display of the Hoskins painting was discussed and Director Speers agreed to look into having DPW assist with this.

The need for updates to the Home Tour website was brought to member's attention

Director Speers discussed the Footbridge Plaque project and the problem with getting in touch with Jerry Voight. Ludington recommended reaching out to the Director of the OCP for contact information. Speers also discussed the completion of new steps for the Woodard Paymaster building and the need to still have steps replaced at the Comstock Cabin. This was followed by an update of the honey bee problem at the Gould House. Members were informed that Dave Anthony had been contacted.

Ludington discussed her review of the Fall apartment at the Gould House, noting that she found limited maintenance issues. She also noted that the Crawford apartment would be reviewed soon.

Chairperson Forster directed members to new business, with a new sign for the castle topping the agenda. Weckwert shared details regarding a sign display which will attach to our existing light pole. A question was raised in regards to possible insurance monies available from the damaged sign and director Speers agreed to look into it. Baker motioned to purchase the sign arm as described by Weckwert for up to \$500, seconded by Ludington and passed.

Removal of unnecessary items from Curwood Castle was discussed and Weckwert moved to proceed with the removal of these items, seconded by Baker and passed. Speers agreed to look into the removal or permanent donation of the Farner table in the basement.

The Gould House gardens were discussed next, with member Weckwert sharing an estimate of \$510.00 from Crooked Tree Nursery for the removal of several ivy and grass. Baker moved to have Crooked Tree remove these items and Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Members discussed the possible use of the Gould House barn as a wedding setting and asked for this to be marketed as such through a press release.

The announcement of member Weckwert to the acquisitions committee was made and as Chair of the 2015 Historic Home Tour.

Weckwert discussed the desire to purchase material for the Curwood Castle valances and tie backs. Ludington moved to have no more than \$850.00 from restricted funds used to make this acquisition, seconded by Baker and passed.

Commissioners were informed that they would receive notification to complete the Director's 6 month evaluation.

Motion by Weckwert to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. and seconded by Gutting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Speers
Secretary/Treasurer