



OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE CURWOOD COLLECTION

Regular Meeting of the Owosso Historical Commission

Minutes of April 11, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Dave Acton – Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Acton, Vice Chair Mark Erickson, Commissioners Gary Wilson, Deb Adams, Sue Osika, Troy Dodge.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Nathan Henne, Owosso City Manager; Denice Grace, Curwood Castle.

CHAIR ACTON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 P.M.

APPROVE MINUTES – March 14, 2022

Motion by Commissioner Wilson to approve modified minutes, as follows:

Commissioner Wilson will be the contact as the project moves forward to ready the Gould House.

Supported by Vice Chair Erickson. Passed by voice vote.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Osika to approve agenda as presented.

Supported by Commissioner Wilson. Passed by voice vote.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 100th Anniversary for Curwood Castle

Denice Grace noted construction of the Castle began March 14, 1923. A completion date is unknown. A year-long celebration is planned. Vice Chair Erickson noted Emerson School and Owosso Country Club are both celebrating the same milestone. Chair Acton suggested having one person to schedule meetings, set reminders and take notes with it ultimately being led by the Commission with ideas from a community based committee. Commission members agreed they would put effort in to celebrate this milestone.

- a. Motion by Vice Chair Erickson to nominate Deb Adams to chair a committee on behalf of the Commission and enlist support with the help of Denice Grace to develop a community committee.
- b. Supported by Commissioner Osika.
- c. Passed by voice vote.

Commissioner Osika requested notes from the committee meetings be included with future packets to keep everyone updated. Vice Chair Erickson inquired about rules for how many Commission members could attend a committee meeting without violating Open Meetings Act rules. It was determined 3 members unless they wanted to post it as a public meeting and provide notice. Members could also be a part of subcommittees. Denice Grace has a list of 7-8 community members that may want to be involved. According to bylaws, Chair Acton nominates members to be appointed and forms committees. Vice Chair Erickson expressed interest.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Henne detailed the financial status of the Commission. Gould House utilities will likely increase now that air conditioning has been installed. There will be some deferred maintenance taking place on the Castle—stucco and interior walls need attention. Gould House exterior painting is a proposed project. Historical sites fund (millage) has been exhausted. The city's Finance Director has asked the commission to revisit the amount that will be used to start an agency fund with the Shiawassee Community Foundation. The rationale for changing the original vote is that this money is an endowment and can't be touched for any other use.

- a. Motion by Vice Chair Erickson to start an agency fund with the Shiawassee Community Foundation for the entirety of the Commission's endowment of \$21,244.04.
- b. Supported by Commissioner Wilson.
- c. Passed by voice vote.

Castle Financial Report-D. Grace-Castle was closed and has been reopened for one week. The Castle won the Uplift Shiawassee Award for best attraction.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Adams was in attendance at the meeting with Shiawassee Arts Center regarding use of the Gould House. Chair Acton commented on the volume of items contained in the Gould House. Shiawassee Arts Center has found an alternate location. Commissioner Wilson indicated there was a not a good match of expectations between the two entities. He detailed there are two types of items at the Gould House: archive (printed material) and artifacts; including some large pieces of furniture. He is concerned the church space will not accommodate all the pieces. Chair Acton suggested a bylaw compliance subcommittee led by Commissioner Wilson. The commission needs to revisit the intentions for the Gould House as a venue or a museum.

STAFF REPORT AND PROJECT UPDATES

The Curwood Castle was recently awarded the Best Attraction Award by Uplift Shiawassee.

Project and Maintenance Updates: Vice Chair Erickson inquired about the repairs to the east porch of the Gould House. The garden group is collaborating with Nash Nurseries. Vice Chair Erickson requested, as Facilities Chair, to look into the feasibility of conversion of a room into a handicap accessible restroom. The commission agreed that an informal feasibility study could be conducted without any expected outcome of implementation.

FY 22-23 Budget Progress-City Manager Henne noted expenses have not changed. The transfer from the General Fund in the budget draft is \$10,000.00. Chair Acton inquired about ARPA funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. Adams supported. Voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 P.M.