



OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
THE CURWOOD COLLECTION

**Regular Meeting of the Owosso Historical Commission**

**Minutes of June 13, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

PRESIDING OFFICER: Vice Chair Mark Erickson  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Gary Wilson, Sue Osika, Deb Adams, Vice Chair Mark Erickson.  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Troy Dodge and Chair Dave Acton  
OTHERS PRESENT: Nathan Henne, Owosso City Manager  
VICE CHAIR ERICKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 P.M.

**APPROVE MINUTES – April 11, 2022**

Motion by Commissioner Osika to approve minutes as presented:

Supported by Commissioner Adams.

Passed by voice vote.

**APPROVE AGENDA – June 13, 2022**

Motion by Commissioner Wilson to add discussion of the historical collections and archives status to the agenda as Item 3.

Supported by Commissioner Osika.

Passed by voice vote.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**1. Gould House Landscaping:**

Nathan stated he has been working with a volunteer gardening group that does work at Fayette Square who expressed interest in clearing up landscaping at the Gould House. He has discussed with Jane Brown for the OHC to consider a landscaping company or having DPW clean up the overgrown areas. Nathan and Jane Brown made a visit to Nash Nurseries where they presented a plan with an itemized plant list and the necessary labor.

The quote provided was over \$10,000 and would trigger the need for a two more quotes. Just clearing the landscaping, cleaning walkways of weeds and bushes, and the rear garden changed to grass was over \$2,000. If moving forward with contractors two more quotes would be required. There is an option to apply for a mini grant amounting to \$4,000 through the MACC, which would require a match in funds. The Grant applications first submittal deadline is August 3, 2022 and the second is January 15, 2023.

Painting and repair of the East side porch were also addressed, these are projects for the future.

Commissioner Adams asked how soon the grant would come through. Nathan stated no progress could be made on the landscaping until October 1, 2022 at the earliest. The Grant Guidelines state the project has to be completed during the State's fiscal year which runs October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.

Commissioner Adams inquired as to who will do the upkeep if the yard and garden are completely redone. Nathan stated that Nash Nurseries made it clear anything they suggested for planting is easy upkeep as long as it's done regularly.

Commissioner Osika proposed cleaning up the current landscaping and staying around the \$2000 - \$3,000 expenditure for the summer with the intent to apply for the grant and match for the following year. The committee will work with Jane Brown to complete the application for the MCAA Mini Grant.

- a. Motion by Commissioner Osika to obtain two more quotes for the landscaping clean up.
- b. Supported by Commissioner Wilson.
- c. Passed by voice vote.

## **2. Castle 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Vice Chair Erickson to nominate Elaine Greenway, John Adams, Beth Kuiper, John Hankerd, Ann Bentley, Morgan Brown, Sarah Hoover (spl), Carrie Farr, Kaitlyn Springsdorf, Debra Adams, Mark Erickson, and Denice Grace. Nathan asked Chair Debra Adams to submit a budget that would be asked of the Commission.

Vice Chair Erickson stated more discussion to be held at the next Commission meeting following the Curwood Castle Anniversary Committees first meeting on June 14, 2022.

## **3. Historical Collections and Archives:**

Commissioner Wilson provided an update on the cleaning and organization of the Gould house. They have cleaned and organized items for the purpose of recording. They have sorted boxes of documents, some that will need to be stored at City Hall. Digital files of past inventories from the 1980-1990 that were on cards have been copied by City Clerk Amy Kirkland and a copy of those have been provided to the Commission. Additionally they have matched old inventory cards to the correct objects, almost all has been identified. The Past Perfect Software is ready for entry of photos and descriptions. Older paper

files, 4-5 boxes date back to the 1960s prior to a Historical Commission that will need to find new storage. There is still a good amount of items stored in the carriage house that need to be cleaned, photographed and prepared for storage, also be entered into the Past Perfect Software.

In looking for suitable storage, they checked into the Episcopal Church who has expressed intent of clearing out a downstairs space which opens up two rooms. The first room being 28x17 = 476sq ft. and a second area of 33x10 = 330sq ft.; offering a total of 806 sq. ft. for storage. They are heat controlled, no air, and a dehumidifier in one room with locking knobs to be installed. The Commission was aiming for a 12month lease, with a price point of \$100-\$150 a month, per room; the Church countered with \$175 per room, per month and no insurance will be offered by the Church.

Commissioner Osika pointed out that it totals \$4200 yearly for storage and asked if both storage rooms are needed, what is going into storage? Could anything be sold that is not historically relevant to Owosso?

Commissioner Wilson stated history behind most of the items is known; it has been grouped into certain collections such as the Curwood collection and individual pieces that were donated. The Commission will need to continue to discuss inventory as to what can be done away with, what belongs permanently and what doesn't; there is a good amount that is connected to Owosso.

Nathan pointed out Byron Shattuck potentially has space rental for \$110 that is climate controlled but the space is smaller and not locked. He also pointed out that there is only \$5000 in the budget for the Gould House currently with the potential of it increasing. There has been good revenue coming from the Curwood Castle.

There is continued discussion to be held on the use of the Gould House; whether it's used as a museum or public venue. This would have an effect on the storage.

Nathan stated the revenue and expense report is looking good, one more transfer before end of the year from the general fund in the amount of \$4200. The report is updated through the end of May 2022. The Castle is now operating in full effect; additionally, the Gould House rent was increased for tenants.

Denice Grace provided a financial report on the Castle – this year was their second highest trafficked Curwood since 2016; with 837 people going through the Castle in three days.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Osika stated it was nice to see Denice in the Curwood parade.

Vice Chair Erickson stated Dave was contacted by Piper Brewer who wants the Commission to review an exhibit for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the SAC and would like to host the Commissions July meeting at the Arts Council and personally walk them through.

- a. Motion by Commissioner Wilson to move the July 11, 2022 meeting to Arts Council
- b. Support by Commissioner Osika
- c. Passed by voice vote.

**Amendment:**

- a. Motion by Commissioner Wilson to amend the previous motion and move the August 8, 2022 meeting to the Arts Council
- b. Support by Commissioner Osika
- c. Passed by voice vote.

**Lastly:**

- a. Motion by Commissioner Osika to cancel the July 11, 2022 meeting
- b. Support by Commissioner Adams
- c. Passed by voice vote

**STAFF REPORT AND PROJECT UPDATES**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Osika moved to adjourn the meeting. Wilson supported. Voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 P.M.