



OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE CURWOOD COLLECTION

Regular Meeting of the Owosso Historical Commission

Minutes of March 8, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Dave Acton – Vice Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Dave Acton, Commissioner Mark Erickson, Commissioner Gary Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Susan Osika

MEMBERS ABSENT:

VICE CHAIR ACTON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:03 P.M.

APPROVE MINUTES – 12.2020 AND 02-2021 MEETINGS

Motion by Wilson to approve

Supported by Erickson

Passed by voice vote

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Osika to approve the agenda with the addition of an item of business to start meeting in person or to continue with virtual meetings

Supported by Martenis

Passed by voice vote

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Gould House Community Survey:
 - a. MOTION: Osika moved to approve survey as presented and to include it in the next round of city utility bills. Supported by Erickson.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously through voice vote.
2. Gould House Renovation Bidding: Acton explained that we are now at the point where we need to start the bidding process for the Gould House renovation project. Henne detailed the meetings that were held on site and reminded everyone that Mayotte group was also

contracted to bid the project. A prequalification would be appropriate for at least the porches and soffits work. Mayotte will also manage the construction process.

- a. MOTION: Martenis moved to prequalify contractors for porches and soffit work and also to bid the projects as they see fit.
 - b. Supported by Osika.
 - c. Motion carried unanimously through voice vote.
3. Castle Reopening: Acton asked if it was possible to open the Castle on April 1. Osika asked if the Castle would be ready by then. Martenis said yes. Denice Grace noted that the gift shop has very low inventory.
- a. MOTION: Osika moved to open the Castle on April 1, 2021.
 - b. Supported by Erickson but added that Henne should have the authority to change that depending on what happens with the State
 - c. Motion carried unanimously through voice vote
4. Inventory of Gift Shop Items in Castle
- a. MOTION: Osika moved that inventory for merchandise be conducted
 - b. Supported by Martenis
 - c. Motion Carried unanimously though voice vote
5. In Person Meetings: Osika wanted to discuss meeting in person. Henne explained that social distancing is still required. Martenis suggested the Armory could be utilized for meetings as well as Castle, Gould House, and City Hall. Acton entertained motion to meet in person at the Gould House for April meeting. Wilson asked what brought on this request. Henne explained that Council will be meeting in person because members have grown tired of virtual meetings.
- a. MOTION: Osika moved to meet via zoom for the April, 2021 meeting.
 - b. Supported by Erickson
 - c. Motion carried unanimously through voice vote

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

City Manager Henne updated the commission on the February Revenue and Expenditures report, the cash balance report as of Feb 28, 2021. Henne pointed out that the promotions line item payment was for an overdue bill for drone footage of the Castle. Henne also noted payments for the security systems used for the Castle and Paymaster building. The 298 fund included a charge for electrical work done on the Castle. Erickson asked about the 298 fund balance and the budgeted \$25,000 this fiscal year for the Gould House roof. Henne explained that it was budgeting out of the 298 fund and not the city's general fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Denice Grace said she had a person call her saying he would like to sell a pair of Curwood book ends. The commission discussed the history of the book ends and inquired if it would be a good idea to purchase this pair for \$200. Henne offered to buy them personally for \$100 and donate them to the Castle.

Erickson discussed the possibility of accepting an antique trunk as a donation. Denice Grace said it may be manufactured in Owosso. Erickson explained he is cautious with accepting just anything on behalf of the OHC. Erickson said he would share photos of the trunk and if it was authentic, the OHC could accept it at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Osika said the Shiawassee Arts Council will be holding a 150 year anniversary in 2022.

Martenis asked if the OHC wanted to consider having the exterior of the Castle cleaned this year and volunteered to help if it was decided to do this.

Osika said that Christmas decorations at the Gould House will be taken down soon.

Acton asked about Christmas decorations at the Castle. Henne said he would ask DPW to take down any decorations that needed to be removed.

Osika updated the members about her discussions with the Farmers Market manager about having an OHC booth once per month at the Saturday markets.

ADJOURNMENT

Osika moved to adjourn the meeting. Wilson supported. Voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 P.M.