

OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Rescheduled Meeting

Friday, August 14, 2015, 7:00PM Curwood Castle

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER:** Elaine Greenway called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM
- PRESENT:** Elaine Greenway, Chair; Jennifer Mahoney, Vice Chair; Robert Brockway; Tracey Peltier; Adrian Montague; Dennis Mahoney; Robert Doran, Director
- ABSENT:** Dean Ebert
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Robert Brockway moved to approve agenda. Elaine Greenway supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jennifer Mahoney moved to accept the treasures report. Robert Brockway supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- APPROVAL OF JULY MUNITES:** Robert Brockway motioned to accept the July minutes. Jennifer Mahoney supported. Motion passed unanimously.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None.
- COMMUNICATIONS:** Carrie Baker – former OHC Commission member – reached out and expressed concern about how the money from The Mitchell Foundation in the amount of \$500 – given to the OHC in 2014 – for replanting the East Garden at Gould House was spent. Robert will be sending a response in writing. Robert read the letter addressed to Ms. Baker. The commission expressed confidence in the letter as a response. (NOTE: It was subsequently discovered that Pat Skutt from accounting had called Ms. Baker inquiring about the money as to how, where and when it was spent. This was a cause for confusion since she could have easily gained that information from the Director or the Chair.)
- DIRECTORS REPORT:** The perennial garden planting at The Gould House – East, South and Shade Gardens – was discussed. Elaine Greenway, Robert Doran, Jennifer Mahoney, Robert Brockway and Dennis Mahoney were instrumental in designing, purchasing and planting the gardens. A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Gordon Pennington and his Clean-Up Green-Up Crew for assisting with the entire project. We not only cleaned and planted the gardens, but we uncovered the brick walk around the driveway, trimmed trees and shrubs and removed 3 trucks of rubble from the property.
- The new tenant – Randy Rivard – is ready to move in the weekend of August 15, with the following changes: \$500 a month not including utilities except garbage and water. Previously the rent was \$600 with all utilities including television. This change will save the commission money in the long run. A \$500 security deposit was taken. He is also going to use the Carriage House to store his bicycle, and an extra \$100 deposit was taken for this. A month to month lease was agreed upon between Randy Rivard and the OHC.
- The Moonlight Market collaboration with the Owosso Historical Commission, The Downtown Farmers Market, SAC and The Owosso Amphitheater was a tremendous success. The OHC made \$500 on Curwood Castle entry fees and donations, \$90 from the gift shop and \$225 for \$2015 Home Tour Tickets.
- To date, the only bid turned in for the engineering report for Gould House was from Bud Design in Grand Blanc. Robert Doran and Don Crawford contacted other firms to see if they wanted to respond. The report will be shared with the commission and then a decision will be made and decided either at the September or October OHC regular meeting. Because the

bid is under \$5,000 it does not have to be approved by City Council. Tracey Peltier will abstain in the decision making process as her husband works for this firm.

Elaine and Jennifer cleaned the collapsed ceiling mess at Gould House. DPW picked up the plaster. The entire interior was cleaned.

OLD BUSINESS:

2015 Home Tour – Spread sheet was shared showing all the homes and number of docents needed for each home. No docents needed for Jennifer Mahoney home. Elaine went over the spread sheet. The number of Docents was discussed and adjusted, based on three shifts. They are 10:00 am to 12:30 pm; 12:30 pm till 3:00 pm, and 3:00 pm till 5:00 pm. Elaine expressed confidence that she has all docents secured and put into place. Robert Doran suggested that each Commission member recruit five to eight docent/volunteers for the event. Elaine reassured us that at this point no additional docents will be needed. Elaine further communicated that seven homes are currently scheduled to have local florists donate flower arrangements.

OHC Calendar of upcoming events:

- August 22 – Tour Our Town – Curwood Castle and Gould House from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Elaine Greenway will open the Castle at 10:00 am, and will be replaced by Denice Grace at 1:00 pm, who will work till closing at 5:00 pm. Robert Doran and Robert Brockway will set up a booth at the Downtown Farmers Market to sell Home Tour Tickets and Castle gift shop items from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. At 11:00 am Robert Doran will open up Gould House. Robert Brockway will join him at 1:00 pm. They will both work until closing at 4:00 pm.
- September 11 – Art Walk –one artist yet to be determined will be showing art at Curwood Castle
- September 19 – OHC Home Tour

Additions to 2015 Home Tour Committee – Jeff Deason, Piper Brewer, Josh Adams, and Aaron Maike are all members of the 2015 OHC Home Tour Committee. They will be representing their respected organizations, and will act as “Historical Ambassadors” at OHC museums. Aaron Maike, President of Baker College will be Historical Ambassador at Curwood Castle; Jeff Deason, President of Shiawassee Chamber of Commerce will be Historical Ambassador at Gould House; Josh Adams, Main Street Manager will be Historical Ambassador at Comstock Pioneer Cabin; and Piper Brewer will be Historical Ambassador at Shiawassee Arts Center.

Deaccession of Halloween Pumpkin – Jennifer Mahoney suggested that we discuss the deaccession – selling for profit – of a vintage Halloween Pumpkin currently in the archives of the OHC. She shared the artifacts history of where it was made – Dayton, Ohio – and its apparent rarity. This was determined after research on Pinterest and various other sites. Jennifer is also a specialist and collector of vintage Halloween artifacts. Jennifer indicated that the artifact could be worth as much as \$10,000, possibly even more. Jennifer placed the following questions before the Commission: Is this something we want to deaccession? What is the intrinsic and historical value of this item to Owosso? What kind of rules and metrics do we set in place in order to begin the deaccession process? Would we possibly at some point in the future, want to retain this for our “museum?” Jennifer suggested that we start this discussion in context of going through other items from our collection that do not have intrinsic or historical value to Owosso, Shiawassee County or the OHC. Elaine Greenway suggested selling items at the home tour. Nick suggested that the Commission pick a focused time to start discussing how to move forward after the Home Tour. Elaine suggested a committee be formed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Home Tour – committees and updates. Update given by Nick Pidek; the website for the Owosso Home Tour – www.OwossoHistoricHomeTour.com – is up and running, yet still going through some changes. Nick has been working with Robert Doran on obtaining content for the site.

Nick Pidek also discussed the Advertising and Media Plan developed by him in conjunction with Gordon Pennington and Burning Media. The detailed Media Plan will not cost the commission anything. The plan covers social media, billboard and TV commercial “impressions” To date, Tony Young gave \$2,500 for the Media Plan. This will cover the billboards and social media. Elaine Greenway expressed thanks to Nick and his team. The 14th of Sept is our next OHC meeting. The possibility of an additional meeting was discussed yet nothing was finalized. Tracey discussed events. We still need to discuss the price for Shannon and Levi who will entertain at the Gould House Tea. Elaine Greenway will call the pumpkin and gourd lady.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURN:

At 8:31 Tracey Peltier made a motion to adjourn. Nick Pidek supported. Motion passed unanimously.