

Minutes of the **January 18, 2011**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission**
held at the Gould House, 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Piper Brewer, City Treasurer Ron Tobey, and members Jamie Brummel (6:43), JoEllen Hartley, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher, Lorraine Weckwert and Gary Wilson.

Member Absent: Michael Erfourth and Shaffer Fox

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

There were no citizen comments.

The November 16, 2010 minutes were reviewed. Motion by Hartley to accept and place the minutes on file. Support by Wascher and approved.

The November 2010 and December 2010 financial reports were brought for review. Motion to accept by Wascher with support by Hartley. Approved.

Discussion concerning the potential copyright of the Castle was held. Brewer reported a variance would have to be obtained due to the age of the building. Also, it is doubtful that much income could be generated from the copyright itself, but it was noted that it could protect the image from being used inappropriately.

Brummel arrived at 6:43.

Motion by Hartley to continue with the copyright process. Supported by Weckwert and approved.

It was noted that the Castle lights had recently been worked on by order of the DPW. Hartley reported that Ludington Electric could be contracted to work on the lights for \$60.00 per hour plus parts. Members will take note of the lights to see if they are now working properly before further consideration of the issue.

It was also noted in the discussion of the lights that DPW found the castle boiler not working properly. Members questioned the effectiveness of Johnson Controls in detecting problems. Wilson asked Tobey to find out the end of the Johnson Control contract and to notify members of that date.

In light of the approval of a Council resolution allowing the Historical Commission to proceed with the replacement of the Heritage Bridge plaque, members Brewer and Weckwert volunteered to serve on a subcommittee for the project. Members will review in February. It was noted that the Council resolution designated that the Parks and Recreation commission as well as the Main Street organization be kept informed of the project.

Chairman Brewer distributed an organized list of the comments made in November regarding Commission goals. It was noted that the bylaws listed seven committees and these goals could be addressed by each committee for review by the whole. Members noted the committees of interest to them.

1. Gould House Preservation Committee:
 - a. Charles Wascher – co-chair
 - b. Gary Wilson – co-chair
 - c. Crystal Smith
2. Historic Properties Activities Committee: This will be a committee of the whole.
3. Curwood Castle Preservation Committee:
 - a. JoEllen Hartley – chair
 - b. Lorraine Weckwert
4. Curwood Castle Park/Cabin Committee:
 - a. Jamie Brummel - chair
 - b. Lorraine Weckwert
 - c. JoEllen Hartley
 - d. Charles Wascher
5. Historic Collection Committee:
 - a. Lorraine Weckwert – chair
 - b. JoEllen Hartley
 - c. Crystal Smith
6. Home Tour/Events Committee:
 - a. Mike Erfourth - chair
 - b. JoEllen Hartley
 - c. Jamie Brummel
 - d. Lorraine Weckwert
7. Historic Preservation Committee:
 - a. Gary Wilson – chair

It was noted that Erfourth had expressed an interest in the Home Tour. He along with Shaffer Fox will be polled for their interests.

Having received and read the bylaws, motion by Wilson to acknowledge the bylaws as required by the bylaws. Supported by Smith and carried with Weckwert dissenting.

Members discussed priorities in setting the budget for the next fiscal year. Comments included painting of the carriage house and repairs to the doors, repair of sidewalks and steps at the Gould House, landscaping work at the back of the Castle, replacement of welcome signs and repair of cabin entrances. Revenue from both apartments for the full year will be budgeted. A detailed proposal will be presented at the February meeting for review and adjustment as needed.

There was a discussion if the garage designated funds could be moved to carriage house repairs. Wilson will contact Preservation Owosso which committed funds to that project.

Brewer reported that members had expressed a consensus of agreement by e-mail to publish an advertisement in the Argus Press bridal supplement.

Adjournment by consensus at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer