

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OWOSSO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
AUGUST 15, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS / CITY HALL

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5:59 p.m. by Chairperson Newman.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Scott Newman, Vice-Chairman Vincent Gonyou; Secretary Phil Hathaway; Commissioners Lance Omer, Matthew Van Epps (arrived 6:02 p.m.), and Gary Wilson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner James Eaton.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Warren-Riley, Housing Program Manager; Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Elaine Robinson, Preservation Planner, and Shelley Greene, Architectural Historian, both from Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc.; Heather Rivard, Director of Owosso Main Street; Lorraine Weckwert, Owosso Historical Commission; Mr. & Mrs. Dave Acton.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Omer, supported by Commissioner Wilson to approve the agenda for August 15, 2012 as presented.

Yeas: All. Motion was passed.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Hathaway, supported by Commissioner Gonyou to approve the minutes for the meeting of June 20, 2012. (There was no meeting in July, 2012.)

Yeas: All. Motion was passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Staff Memorandum
- 2) Meeting minutes of June 20, 2012

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1) Discussion on the National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

The representatives from Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. who are helping with the process for the nomination process for the NRHP are Elaine Robinson, Preservation Planner, and Shelley Greene, Architectural Historian. Lorraine Weckwert was introduced as the driving force behind creating the local historic district who spent many hours photographing and researching data on the downtown buildings.

Commissioner Van Epps arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Greene distributed SHPO information to the board. Discussion of the map of the proposed downtown district was slightly larger than had previously been used by the city. The boundaries are still open for further evaluation and may change.

Ms. Robinson continued that the Historic District Commission could expect that their criteria for evaluation included this listing:

- events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our local history; or
- the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- things that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

One activity will be photographing all buildings. The National Registry nomination has specific requirements that have to be followed; and that is why some of this work is being repeated from work previously done by others. They will be doing their own research as well as reviewing research done by others; reading the archived Owosso newspapers; and talking to people.

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Acton were in attendance and wanted to contact the board regarding a retail property they are in the process of buying. The front door is in really bad condition, but they want to completely comply with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. It was decided they will meet with Chairman Newman tomorrow.

Ms. Robinson continued that they will write a report for the Steam Railroading Institute which is not a part of the current nomination, but could be turned into a historic district on it's own at a later time. They will also be researching Sanborn maps, city directories, and building permits. It was noted that there are old tax records stored in the Gould house.

6:35 p.m. Commissioner Omer left.

Ms. Robinson said they will be looking at all the buildings and then will make a determination if they are contributing or noncontributing.

6:43 p.m. Commissioner Hathaway left.

Ms Greene and Ms. Robinson will have a database that will be shared with the city. They will both be in the downtown area most of the rest of the summer. Ms. Robinson appreciates the willingness of this board to assist with their offers of help.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Van Epps, supported by Commissioner Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Yeas: All. Motion was passed.

Phil Hathaway, Secretary