

**OWOSSO HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
Regular meeting  
Monday March 14, 2016  
Curwood Castle

- CALL TO ORDER:** CHAIR ELAINE GREENWAY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:04 P.M.
- PRESENT:** CHAIR ELAINE GREENWAY, VICE-CHAIR JENNIFER MAHONEY, COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY, COMMISSIONER TRACEY PELTIER, COMMISSIONER JENELLE STEELE-ELKINS, COMMISSIONER DENNIS MAHONEY, HISTORICAL FACILITIES DIRECTOR ROBERT DORAN.
- ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER CHRIS EVELETH, COMMISSIONER NICK PIDEK
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** CHAIR ELAINE GREENWAY REQUESTED TO ADD THE 2016 HOME TOURR TO NEW BUSINESS. COMMISSIONER DENNIS MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.
- TREASURERS REPORT:** COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURES REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JENELLE STEELE-ELKINS. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** COMMISSIONER DENNIS MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 8, 2016 MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.
- CITIZENS COMMENTS:** NONE
- COMMUNICATIONS:** Director Robert Doran introduced Carolyn Ebert, newly appointed to the Owosso Historical Commission. All OHC members warmly welcomed her to the Commission.
- Director Robert Doran has been in contact with Janis Durham, a direct descendant of James Olive Curwood's sister. She is sending the OHC a scrap book containing vintage family photos, many of Curwood.
- DIRECTORS REPORT:** DIRECTOR ROBERT DORAN DEFERRED DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO OLD AND NEW BUSINESS.
- OLD BUSINESS:** VOLUNTEERS DATABASE: Director Doran again stressed the importance of a volunteer program and database.

**CASTLE CONCERT SERIES:** First concert was artistically a resounding success. The Commission is looking forward to the next three concerts. The Eventbrite page that Commissioner Pidek created - [www.historicowosso.eventbrite.com](http://www.historicowosso.eventbrite.com) – is still live and selling tickets for the remaining three concerts, which are: March 26: Mandy & Nick; April 30: B Side Jeff Deason; May 21: Evening of Baroque Music – Harpsichord, Lute & Recorder

**MADE IN OWOSSO EXHIBITION:** Director Robert Doran indicated that preparation for the exhibition is in full swing, as he and his Made in Owosso Committee continue to work on this multi-faceted community project.

**HISTORICAL ARCHITECT / ENGINEER FOR THE GOULD HOUSE:** Director Doran updated the Commission on the continued search for a plan to renovate and restore the Gould House. Doran suggested that the Commission put the Gould House renovation on the “back burner” until after we complete some of the immediate projects, initiatives and exhibitions that are in the pipe line for the spring-summer-fall 2016 season. Given the scope of a full scale renovation and restoration – cost, time, preparation, community support, historical accuracy and integrity – he suggested that a community wide effort is needed to tackle a project of this magnitude. The Commission agreed. We will return our attention to this project in January, 2017.

**CURWOOD CABIN: UPDATE:** A site for the cabin – directly to the north of Curwood Castle – has been chosen. Director Doran indicated that an historical architect has been selected to assist with the move. The architect will assess the cabin – including some minor rotting wood and the chinking – and will recommend a historically accurate foundation at Curwood Castle Park. Director Doran also indicated that he has been in contact with the same log construction specialist who replaced logs in the Comstock Pioneer Cabin and timber in Curwood Castle. The contractor is excited to work with us on this project.

**OIL PAINTINGS IN THE CASTLE UPDATE:** Director Doran indicated that after an extensive search effort, a conservation specialist has been contacted and is coming to the Castle to professionally test and assess all the paintings. Doran will present her findings at the next OHC meeting.

**NEW SECURITY SYSTEM AT THE CASTLE:** Director Doran indicated that an improved security system had been successfully installed at the Castle. The Castle now has five security cameras. Three interior – inside the front door, in the lower level and in the third floor turret; and two exterior – one looking out the front door and one on the north side of the Castle aimed at the new site of the Houghton Lake Curwood Cabin. All are attached to a 24/7 surveillance system, located in the Castle.

**COMMISSIONER DENNIS MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE INVOICE FROM SECURITY ALARM OF \$1,271.00 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**NON PROFIT GROUP SUSTAINIBILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING:** The Commission agreed to one more meeting with Tom Williams from the Non Profit Group to discuss the importance of building a strong internal board structure. We will then complete Phase I of the facilitated dialog process with a final meeting at City Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COMMITTEES:** The OHC has decided to create and implement these committees with the following commissioners acting as committee chairs:

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| MERCHANDISING:                         | Commissioner Tracey Peltier   |
| VOLUNTEERS:                            | Chair Elaine Greenway   |
| EDUCATION:                             | Commissioner Jenelle Steele- Elkins                                   |
| MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA               | Commissioner Nick Pidek   |
| FUNDRAISING:                           | Commissioners Dennis Mahoney and<br>Chris Eveleth.                    |
| FACILITIES & GARDENS:                  | Commissioners Jennifer Mahoney,<br>Carolyn Ebert and Robert Brockway. |
| EXHIBITIONS, ACQUISITIONS<br>& EVENTS: | Director Robert Doran   |

As the Commission settles into the new committee structure, appropriate changes will be implemented as we grow into our new roles. The new Committee Chairs will make presentations at the April 11 OHC Meeting.

**CHAIRS AT THE CASTLE:** Two oversized chairs at Curwood Castle will be restored and covered by Melco Interiors, at a cost of \$1,065.30.

**COMMISSIONER JENNIFER MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO HAVE THE CHAIRS RESTORED AND COVERED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED HEAD DOCENT POSITION WAS SHARED AND DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMISION.**

**CASTLE SOUVENIER SHOP / CASH REGISTER:** In her new role as Committee Chair of Merchandising, Commissioner Tracey Peltier will now take on the management of this initiative.

**MOVE MOVIE EXHIBITION FROM THE GOULD HOUSE TO CURWOOD CASTLE:** It was discussed that we should move the Curwood Movie exhibition from the Gould House, where it was curated for last year's home tour, to Curwood Castle. Due to the unreliable physical state of

the Gould House it was agreed that many more people would be able to enjoy the exhibition if placed at the Castle. The exhibition will be moved in time for the Curwood Festival, which is the first weekend in June. Also the framing and placement in the Castle of one oversized poster was discussed to augment the exhibition. **COMMISSIONER JENNIFER MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO HAVE THE OVERSIZED POSTER FRAMED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT BROCKWAY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**FUNDRAISING:** In their new roles as Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee, Commissioners Dennis Mahoney and Chris Eveleth will now take on the management of this initiative.

**NEW SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR THE PAYMASTER BUILDING AND THE COMSTOCK CABIN:** A security system has been installed in the Paymaster Building, and pending updated electrical, will be installed in the Comstock Cabin. **COMMISSIONER DENNIS MAHONEY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE INVOICE FROM SECURITY ALARM OF \$199.00 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM AT THE WOODARD PAYMASTER BUILDING, AND UPON INSTALATION \$199.00 FOR THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM AT THE COMSTOCK PIONEER CABIN; WITH A MONTHLY MONOTORING FEE OF \$29 PER MONTH AT EACH LOCATION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRACEY PELTIER. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**2016 HOME TOUR:** Chair Elaine Greenway started a discussion regarding some of the steps and initiatives that need to begin pending the next regular meeting of the OHC. Some of these included a presentation to prospective homeowners in order to secure homes – specifically Woodard Homes, reviewing the homeowner contract, creation of rack cards for Welcome Centers, volunteers, forming a Home Tour Committee, etc.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**NONE**

**ADJOURN:**

**COMMISSIONER JENELLE STEELE-ELKINS MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:45 P.M., SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER TRACEY PELTIER. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**