

Minutes of the **April 18, 2006**, regular meeting
of the **Owosso Historical Commission**
held at the Gould House, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Piper Brewer, City Treasurer Ron Tobey, and members Lance Ellenberg, Joane Ford (arrived 7:47), Scott Newman, Bonnie Snyder, Charles Wascher and Gary Wilson.

Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Motion by Ellenberg to accept and place on file minutes of March 21, 2006; supported by Wascher and carried.

Motion by Wascher to accept the March 2006 Treasurer's Report; supported by Snyder and carried.

Motion by Snyder to find funds and have fundraisers to keep the docents on paid salary to the first of the year, then, reevaluate. Supported by Wascher and carried after discussion. It was noted that the city funding for castle docents had been eliminated in the budget presented to council for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Members discussed the castle operating hours for Curwood Festival. Motion by Newman to set Castle hours as 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday for Festival; and to charge one-half the normal donation amount during the Festival. Support by Wilson and approved. Past practice had been to allow free entrance to the Castle during Festival weekend.

Ford arrived.

2006 Home Tour general discussion was held. The Christian-Brooks home and Weckwert home are firm commitments. Several others were mentioned as close to commitment. As June 1st is the deadline for commitments, contracts will be collected before the May meeting.

Brewer noted that Arcadia Publishing will not allow the commission to discount the retail price of a publication. Another publisher will be contacted before any further decisions are made.

Brewer reported that Richardson had been in Owosso in March and had visited the Castle. Reports are positive about fundraising, but no monies have been collected.

The Gould House porch steps were discussed as West's efforts to fix them appear substandard. Members will attempt to contact Mark Beattie to determine his recommendation. Brewer reported that bids had been solicited for exterior painting at the house. An estimate from Jamie Crites had been received for \$9,350. Members discussed the need for more estimates to be received.

A work session for the May 6th sale was set for Saturday, April 22nd, beginning at 9 a.m. The carriages will be moved temporarily to a garage across the street. Another work session will be held on Monday, April 24th, beginning at 6 p.m.

Motion by Wilson for an "Experience Owosso" advertisement to be placed for a cost of \$100.00. Support was given by Wascher and motion carried. Distribution will be in the county. Emphasis will be placed on availability of the Castle and Gould House for rent.

Brewer reported on the Cool Cities grant application sought by the Arts Council. She noted that the entire neighborhood will be considered as part of the process. Members supported the effort by consensus.

Motion by Snyder to purchase commission stationery. Support by Ford and carried.

It was noted that six poles are along Curwood Castle Drive needing hanging flower baskets, rather than the five discussed at last month's meeting. Brackets will not need to be purchased, however.

Tobey reported that our Gould House lawn care service has quit. Members suggested the names of Jim Nichols and Leroy Coppersmith as possible service providers.

Adjournment at 8:54 p.m., following motion by Ford, supported by Snyder.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer