

Minutes of the **June 20, 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, Phil Heavilin, Marti Lameti, Scott Newman (arrived 7:13), Bonnie Snyder and Charles Wascher.

Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by Lameti to accept and place on file minutes of May 16, 2006; supported by Ford and carried.

Motion by Heavilin to accept the May 2006 Treasurer's Report; supported by Wascher and carried. Tobey reported an empty apartment at the Gould House, but with a strong prospect for July. The apartment has had new carpet installed and is ready for occupancy.

Newman arrived 7:13 p.m.

Tobey reported the financial data from the Curwood Festival weekend. \$981.35 was deposited for the weekend's proceeds; \$768.45 in admissions, \$26.65 in donations, \$12.25 for postcard and \$174.00 for other merchandise. It was noted that collecting admission donations at the door was positive and visitors seemed to take more of an interest in their visit. Members were thanked for volunteering staffing time. Motion by Ford to designate Curwood weekend's proceeds for docent wages, supported by Heavilin and carried.

Brewer reported that the flower baskets had been installed on Curwood Castle Drive and along with the art banners designed by children had generated many positive comments.

Home Tour 2006 is still tentative. Three firm commitments have been made. Ford will contact the owner of the Christian home to ask reconsideration.

Arcadia Publishing, the company considered for a 2008 book would like a decision on our interest. Members again discussed the required price for sale that seems high. Brewer noted that a solicitation from Fidler-Doubleday had been received. She will investigate this prospect, delaying a final decision on the book until the July meeting.

Members received information from Brewer regarding the Richardson contract for fundraising. A letter should be ready this week for member approval to be sent to potential donors. This letter will be distributed by e-mail when available. Richardson remains optimistic and indicates that efforts can not seem rushed or donors will back away. Water leaks at the castle were discussed, with a report from a docent that there had been some brick deterioration under the east eaves. Even without major funds for repair, preparation for projects should begin. The roof will be evaluated first.

The DeVriess facility has maintained and oiled the carriages and placed them on display. They do not wish to purchase them, but will take them on a long term loan, insure them and allow the commission to use them whenever desired. Members decided to not commit to any arrangements at this time.

Members went outside to view the garage. Members discussed the required procedures should demolition be an option. Major deterioration was noted. Motion by Lameti to obtain a bid for repair, and then decide on a plan of action next month. Supported by Newman, motion carried.

The Smith family north of the Gould House has requested that a tree along their drive be trimmed. Members noted that the limbs all seemed to be quite far from the ground, but agreed that any limb protruding across the property line could be trimmed by the property owner.

Members were invited by Scott Newman to view his home on Goodhue to determine if it would be wanted for this year's home tour.

Adjournment at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer