

Minutes of the **July 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, Phil Heavilin, Marti Lameti, Scott Newman, Bonnie Snyder and Gary Wilson.

Members absent: Joane Ford and Charles Wascher

Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Newman to accept and place on file minutes of June 20, 2006; supported by Lameti and carried.

Motion by Heavilin to approve the June 2006 checks written, supported by Snyder and carried. Tobey provided a preliminary Treasurer's Report for June, but indicated that the final report would be submitted for approval later after the fiscal year had been closed

A report prepared by the city finance office was distributed to members with a request by the city Finance Director for a payoff of entries in the "Due to General Fund" account totaling \$22,781.30. The majority of the balance was from a transaction in 2001 to tuck point the brick foundation at the Gould House. This expenditure for \$18,450.00 had been approved by the City Council. Tobey discussed the process by which entries were made to this account and noted that for the last three fiscal years, all expenses not related to the Curwood Castle had been reimbursed by commission funds. After general discussion, motion was made by Wilson to pursue an inquiry into the request for reimbursement for an expenditure made in 2001, asking Finance Director, Richard Williams, to attend the August meeting.

Heavilin noted that he had made temporary repairs to the flashing at Curwood castle to prevent leaks that have been causing damage to the interior and exterior walls. There was a major gap between the turret wall and the flashing at the roofline. He commented that it had been assumed that this issue had been resolved from earlier requests to DPW. Heavilin will bring a slate roof contractor to the site for an inspection.

Home Tour 2006 is still tentative. Snyder reported that four firm commitments have been made. Motion by Heavilin to secure one major house in the next week or to cancel this year's tour. Motion supported by Lameti and carried.

Brewer reported contact with Fidler-Doubleday for a 2008 book would require all up-front funding by the commission. Members again discussed the proposal by Arcadia Publishing. Lameti reported that Ann Arbor Press through the University of Michigan publishes excellent quality books about communities, also providing the work needed to assemble the book. She will speak to her contact and report back at the next meeting if this would be a possibility.

Heavilin reported on efforts to secure bids for the repair of the garage at the Gould House. He noted that contractors had not expressed much interest in making a bid or had discussed the major repairs needed in relation to the value of the building. Members discussed the idea of an adaptive reuse, preserving the unique architectural aspects of the structure in a garden gazebo that might be used for weddings or other parties on the property. Newman was asked to list the ideas discussed to present to a contractor for a proposal.

Brewer reported on bids received for a website for the commission. Tim Richardson has requested this website for fundraising purposes. Doug Cornell at the chamber proposed a cost of three to four thousand dollars. Amber Fuller with Merge Two Media bid at \$500.00. The domain name would also need to be obtained. It was noted that Fuller was previously with Wolf Communications. She has offered to provide samples from which the commission might choose. She has suggested numerous pages that might be utilized. Members were concerned about the user-friendliness of the screens and would like to view a sample of her work already published on-line. Members will be provided these references for review. Motion by Lameti to approve the Fuller proposal subject to an e-mail vote after references have been reviewed. Support was given by Newman and carried. It was noted that Sue Henry has volunteered to type in text that would be needed on the site.

It was noted that Sunday, July 30th would need to be covered at the Gould House by Commission members. Brewer will finalize the schedule.

Lameti noted that the renewal notice for membership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation had been received. Motion by Snyder to renew membership for \$20.00, supported by Lameti and carried.

Adjournment at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer