

Minutes of the **September 19, 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, Bonnie Snyder(7:19), Charles Wascher and Gary Wilson (7:13).

Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Ford to accept and place on file minutes of August 15, 2006; supported by Ellenberg and carried.

Motion by Heavilin to approve the August 2006 Treasurer's Report, supported by Lameti and carried. Brewer submitted Curwood Festival proceeds in the amount of \$259.72.

No discussion was held on the General Fund Payable as City Finance Director Richard Williams was not in attendance.

Wilson arrived 7:13 p.m.

Donning Company Publishers have met with Brewer and Tobey to discuss a 2008 book project. Brewer presented members details of the process. The books retail from \$29.95 to \$49.95 as we decide.

Snyder arrived 7:19 p.m.

A sample hardcover book published by Donning was circulated. Donning believes that a run of 1000 copies would be appropriate for our population. An author would be selected to organize photos and to provide script. Sixteen pages of color photographs would be included. Additional color pages are available, for an additional charge. Local sponsors are solicited by Donning upon recommendation by the Commission. Their upfront sponsorship is reimbursed as books are sold. It was noted that books would make nice gifts for the sponsoring organization to distribute. Comments were also made that the lack of extensive advertising made for a better quality book. Motion by Wilson to pursue the project with Donning Company Publishers, supported by Lameti and carried.

Members selected potential sponsors and contacts:

- Memorial Healthcare – Cheryl Peterson
- Baker College – Denise Bannan
- Chemical Bank – Jack Harrison
- Owosso Graphic Arts – Jerry Voight
- Young Cadillac-Chevrolet – Tony Young
- Citizens-Republic Bank – Dana Cluckey
- Nelson House Funeral Home – Bob Nelson
- Cook Family Foundation/Wolverine Sign – Tom Cook
- Argus Press – Dick Campbell

Brewer offered to donate her time to author the book. Motion by Ford to approve Brewer as the book author. Support was given by Wascher and motion carried.

No progress was made on the Fall Fundraiser and topic will be dropped.

Brewer reported on Website progress. Help still needs to be obtained to gather information for web pages. Judy Eldridge was suggested as a possible contact. Heavilin commented that the web page designer should be able to request topics and the suggested word count for each page. Richardson's progress hinges on the completion of the web site. He has commented that designation of the Castle as a literary site and the Curwood endowed chair at MSU have both contributed to the prospects for later success.

Members revisited the Gould House garage issue. Comments were made that the structure is historic in the progression of eras at the property, that a larger structure in the same style might be more practical, that a re-adaptive use with only a suggestion of the present structure would not actually be true preservation and that it would not be used to a great extent. Members seemed to agree that the monetary priorities are the major obstacle. Wascher moved that the structure be torn down, support given by Ford. Further discussion occurred. The need to take action was stressed. It was noted that City Council will need to be involved in the process. Call for the question was made by Ford. The voice vote carried the motion with Newman dissenting and Lameti abstaining. Ford offered to research the necessary process to seek council approval.

It was reported by Ford that City Building Official, John Archer, and DPW worker Hill will repair the slate on the castle roof in the next week. It was noted that the turret windows and plaster repair are the next steps to be taken in the repair progress. Carpenter Byron Sawyer may be contacted to see if he is interested in the window project. Wilson offered to research names of companies involved just in historic preservation.

Brewer relayed that Ivan Conger had 50 "Kazan" paperback books he would sell to the commission for \$4.00 each. Motion by Snyder to purchase the books for a total of \$100.00. Supported by Newman. Motion failed for a lack of vote.

At 8:56 p.m. members went upstairs to view the condition of the apartment. Wascher and Lameti left the meeting at this time. Attention was brought to the condition of the upholstery and bedspreads in the apartment. Ford left the meeting at 9:05. Motion by Newman to authorize up to \$1500 to update the apartment and reupholster the furniture. Support was given by Heavilin and motion carried.

Adjournment at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer