

Minutes of the **February 20, 2007**, 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, Scott Newman, Charles Wascher and Gary Wilson.

Members absent: Joane Ford (Council Meeting conflict) and Marti Lameti

Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Heavilin to accept and place on file minutes of January 16, 2007, supported by Wascher and approved.

Motion by Wascher to accept January 2007 Treasurer's Report. Support was given by Ellenberg and motion carried.

The 2008 book project was discussed. Further efforts to secure sponsorship on the project have not been successful. For the project to proceed, the content would have to be compiled by May. Members expressed continued support for the project, but commented that 2008 would be more realistic for publishing. Motion by Heavilin to postpone book publishing until 2008; support given by Wilson and carried.

Brewer reported communications with Tim Richardson. His Castle fundraising contract is up for renewal on March 1st. Richardson has notified Brewer of his intent to terminate the contract due to a lack of time to work on project. He offered to provide letters of support or names of potential funding sources; and expressed his continued personal interest and support of the project.

No members had new suggestions for the council vacancy. Lameti's contact had not been answered.

Members discussed items that need attention before the end of the fiscal year. Plaster repair work should be done at the Castle and exterior painting at the Gould House should be initiated.

The proposed 2007-2008 budget was presented and discussed. Members expressed concern that very necessary projects are postponed indefinitely due to a lack of funds. Concern was expressed that Owosso's treasures will be lost due to a lack of community support for preservation. Special projects identified for the upcoming FY were the replacement of the Comstock Cabin roof, continued repairs at the Castle and the repair of the mansard roof at the Gould House to eliminate water backup from ice melt. Motion by Heavilin to accept proposed budget as discussed. Motion supported by Ellenberg and approved.

The lack of tenants in the apartments was discussed. It was noted that the vacancy level and economy in the area was a contributing factor. Motion by Wilson to set reduce rental rate in the Gould House apartments to \$750.00 per month, with a retroactive reduction to \$650.00 per month for those continuing to rent six months or more. Support was given by Ellenberg and motion carried.

The recent Castle intrusion was discussed. Motion by Newman to replace security cameras at the Castle for a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Support by Heavilin and approved.

By consensus, members agreed to sponsor the Curwood Festival again this year, by submitting the required \$25.00 fee. Potential Curwood weekend fundraisers were discussed.

Members were again informed about Traverse City resident, Rick Bower, who is interested in filming a Curwood documentary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer