

Minutes of the **April 17, 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 Joane Ford, Phil Heavilin, Scott Newman, Charles Wascher and Richard Waters

Members absent: Lance Ellenberg, Marti Lameti and Gary Wilson

Guest present: JoEllen Hartley (Preservation Owosso chair)

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

Richard (Dick) Waters was introduced and welcomed as new Commission member.

Motion by Heavilin to accept and place on file minutes of March 20, 2007, supported by Wascher and approved.

Motion by Ford to accept March 2007 Treasurer's Report. Support was given by Heavilin and motion carried.

Members were reminded that the two Gould House apartments remain vacant. Tobey was asked to advertise these vacancies.

Brewer requested volunteers to work a portion of the six hours required for Curwood Festival participation. It was also noted that six hours of volunteers would be needed for the potential Curwood Saturday fundraiser, and that members would also need to be available for the Castle on Saturday and Sunday of the Festival. Several volunteered time and Brewer will make a formal request by e-mail to members.

Heavilin had gathered some information for transfers for the slate project. Brewer will gather further information before bringing it back to the Commission.

The Art & Antique sale by the SAC will proceed May 5th. The other group proposing a space rental for other tables has secured another site and day for this year. Members were asked to volunteer to conduct Gould House tours on this date. The suggestion was made to cancel these tours as many hours of volunteer time were needed for other projects. Consensus was that tours would not be in high demand from sale visitors but that Brewer would conduct a tour if requested.

Brewer reported that Summer Sunday open house at the Gould House would be staffed by the various groups that had been responsible in the past.

JoEllen Hartley was given the floor to discuss Preservation Owosso's perspective of the 2007 Home Tour. Several of their members would take responsibility to secure homes for the tour and to work with the Historical Commission for a share in the proceeds. Potential homes were discussed. Members agreed that a sharing of half of the work and half of the profits were reasonable should a home tour be practical for this year. It was agreed that a "showcase" home must be secured for the tour to be a success. Motion by Ford to partner with Preservation Owosso for a 2007 Home Tour the fourth Saturday of September. Motion was supported by Newman and approved.

The estimate of \$4,590 for Gould House painting from Jesse Farr was presented. Motion by Newman to accept this proposal and to expend up to \$5,000 for the project. Support was given by Ford and motion carried.

Members were presented with a proposal from Cruise to the Castle to participate in a poker run by opening the castle and submitting a \$50.00 entry fee. Members commented that it would not promote any touring of the castle. Proposal died for lack of motion.

Members also chose to decline a request to donate the Castle as the "jail" site for the Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser.

Members were informed that Ken Davis had been secured to make plaster repairs to the interior of the castle. It was noted that exterior repairs need to be done before all interior work would be feasible. It was also noted that nothing was in process for the exterior repairs.

Member Wascher inquired if the Overton/VanWormer brass plaque originally placed at the first Owosso home site was in the possession of the Commission. Members of the Genealogical Society would like to see the memorial replaced at the riverbank location. It was noted that the plaque was at city hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer