

Minutes of the **September 18, 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 Joni Forster, Phil Heavilin, Marti Lameti (arrived 8:30), Scott Newman, Brent Smith, Charles Wascher, Dick Waters and Gary Wilson.

Member absent: Lance Ellenberg

Guests present: Helen Granger (*Independent* reporter), JoEllen Hartley (Preservation Owosso) and Jason Simmons

Prior to the meeting being called to order, *Independent* reporter Granger interviewed chairperson Brewer and commission members for upcoming articles on non-profit organizations in the community.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of August 21, 2007, was made by Heavilin, supported by Newman and carried.

Motion by Newman to accept August 2007 Treasurer's report. Support was given by Wascher and motion carried.

The various committee assignments made for the Home Tour project were surveyed to determine if accomplishments were complete. An article in last Saturday's Detroit *Free Press* was passed around and it was noted that this Sunday's Flint *Journal* will also provide coverage. Guest and Home Tour vice-chair Hartley noted that a group would be sprucing up the Gould House grounds on Wednesday.

Chairman Brewer reported to the commission that city council expressed support for a plan to document the structure of the Gould House garage and to rebuild according to Secretary of the Interior guidelines for historic preservation. Council will need to be presented with the final plan. Motion was made by Heavilin to proceed with the aforementioned plan for the Gould House garage for a total cost not greater than \$12,000 with demolition to be done by Historical Commission volunteers. Support was given by Newman and motion carried. Heavilin and Jo Ellen Hartley/Richard Clark volunteered to document and photograph the structure after Home Tour is complete. It was noted that doors, windows and siding are especially crucial to this process and will be preserved as appropriate. Heavilin will also check into the possibility of having knives made to mill lumber to replicate the unique siding.

Attention was turned to the three proposals for exterior stucco repair at the Castle. The bids ranged from \$16,900 from Cusack Masonry to \$22,810 from Western Waterproofing and \$26,310 by Grunwell-Cashero Company. As members discussed the differences in process, consensus developed that the Commission must make sure that the process is done correctly and that additional input may be needed. Member Wilson reported that Mark Stanbaugh with Stanbaugh Masonry had been consulted on various projects and might be contacted to advise on the companies and the proposals submitted. Motion by Heavilin for Wilson to contact Stanbaugh to look at the project and review proposals for a recommendation. Support was given by Newman and motion carried. Heavilin again motioned that if the response endorsed two or more of the proposals that approval be given to the lower of the two bids. Supported by Newman and carried.

Note: Correction to the above minutes at the September 18, 2007 meeting are as follows.

Motion by Wilson to make a correction to the minutes:

Under the discussion of castle stucco repairs, the motion by Heavilin was for Wilson to "seek a proposal from Mark Stambaugh (noting corrected name spelling as well), and if Stambaugh were not interested in making a proposal, request for him to review the other proposals received." This corrective motion seconded by Wascher; motion passed.

The castle wood windows were discussed. Motion by Wilson that after Home Tour a castle window be removed and covered by the city, with the window taken to E & L Hardwoods in Chesaning to ask for a proposal for costs and a timeline for replacement.

Motion by Wascher for the old metal folding chairs at the castle to be donated to the Amphitheater Association with the association moving the chairs. Support was given by Newman and motion carried with Heavilin abstaining.

Lameti arrived at 8:30.

Chairman Brewer displayed a puzzle offered as a potential fundraiser. Members were impressed with the sample. The puzzle which retails for \$15.00 can be purchased for \$6.30 each if 250 are purchased and

\$4.90 each if 500 are purchased. Shipping costs are additional. Motion by Newman to contract for purchase, at \$4.90 plus shipping to sell at \$15.00, 250 each of pictures of a historical map of Owosso and of Curwood Castle. Motion supported by Lameti and carried.

The 2008 book was discussed. Members were reminded of past work with Donning Publishing for purchase of \$1,000 books for retail at \$39.95, presale at \$34.95 and commission cost of \$26.41. Potential to purchase 750 for \$28.51 each was also an option. It was noted that \$6,600 was in commission hands toward this project and another \$1,100 was promised if the book proceeds. Members discussed the advantages for the project on a historical basis as well as the potential for sales of the book on a sufficient basis to cover the cost of the project. Brewer was given approval to determine if an underwriting sponsor for the remainder of the cost might be obtained, with a report expected at the next meeting.

Members were informed of a Girl Scout Tea booked at the Gould House on October 28 from 1-4 in the afternoon. Organizers would like to have commission volunteers to speak regarding the history of the house and of Owosso in general. Six volunteers were sought for one hour shifts, two per shift. Brewer volunteered to serve from 1-2, with Smith and Lameti each agreeing to serve from 2-3. Brewer will attempt to fill the remaining three posts from those who have served as Gould House docents.

A proposal for a Gould House sign to replace the one stolen was received from Heather Brooks. The sign would be of metal and installed for \$35.00 complete. Motion by Heavilin to purchase the sign with support given by Newman and motion carried.

It was noted that Tobey would not be available to take minutes for the October 16th meeting. Heavilin volunteer to serve as recording secretary for that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer