

Minutes of the **April 15, 2008**, 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 JoEllen Hartley, Phil Heavilin, Gary Martenis, Charles Wascher, Dick Waters and Gary Wilson (@ 7:15).
Members absent: Josh Cannon, Scott Newman and Brent Smith
Guest present: City Manager Joseph Fivas

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

Motion to accept and place on file minutes of March 18, 2008, was made by Wascher, supported by Heavilin and carried.

Motion by Heavilin to accept the March 2008 Treasurer's report. Support was given by Martenis and motion carried.

Progress toward the Gould House garage sketches was discussed. Since an architectural student intern at Baker is not available, members will check to see if a MSU intern is available through Jed Dingen's teaching responsibilities or to contact Todd Gute in Grand Ledge to determine if he is interested in the work.

Gary Wilson arrived 7:15 p.m.

Two volunteers have been identified to help with the 2009 Book Project. Jude Wilson has identified potential printers for the project, although it can not be on-demand publishing for a hard cover volume. She would perform work for a project fee and guide the commission through the process. An agreement form will be sought for consideration at the May 5th meeting.

Members were advised of the progress of repairs by Cusack Masonry on the Castle. As a new sample of paint color had been applied in the afternoon at the Castle, members reviewed the selection. At the last meeting, members had voted to paint the castle the original paint color, but were directed to reaffirm the choice of the original color by a show of hands. Unanimous support was expressed to continue with the last color sample. Brewer will forward by e-mail pictures of the sample to City Council members. Tobey is to confirm the choice with Cusack by noon tomorrow.

Members discussed the bid received from Whalen Construction for window replacement. The written proposal was for a greater amount than the verbal quote received earlier. Members also noted the fact that most of the windows need only repair, possibly with epoxy, rather than a complete restoration. Heavilin has been in contact with Jim Turner of Turner Restorations involved in work at the County Court House. Turner had provided some information, although the subject was of metal window restoration. Heavilin will discuss with Turner again for a wood window repair quote. Dave Gardner of Morrice was again mentioned as a potential contact. Tobey was asked to confirm with Cusack Masonry that work at the castle would include caulking as necessary between the stucco and the wood window casement.

City Manager Fivas was asked to offer comments to the group. There were general comments and discussion concerning the role the Historical Commission performs/can perform in promoting the city's quality of life.

Member Wilson redistributed the Castle brochure work in progress for input from members. Sample brochures from a visitor center were passed around and discussion centered on what made for a brochure that would peak interest. Wilson will continue to work on the prototype. Motion by Martenis to authorize expenditure of up to \$150.00 initial set up cost to finalize a design. Support was given by Heavilin and motion carried.

Members turned attention to the potential of a 2008 Home Tour. A couple of ideas were presented and members were each asked to bring three sites of homes that would be available for selection to the next meeting. These sites are to have agreement of the homeowner for inclusion.

Flower baskets are again available for hanging on the poles in Curwood Castle Park. Five baskets at \$50.00 each would cost \$125.00 to the Commission if split with the Arts Council. Motion by Heavilin to purchase the five flower baskets and to split the cost with the SAC. Motion seconded by Hartley and carried.

Members decided that the Castle should be open during Curwood Festival the same hours as the SAC, 10-6 on Saturday and 11-5 on Sunday. Tobey will coordinate docent schedules and members will be asked to sign up for work hours at the May meeting.

Motion by Heavilin to purchase a combination of 100 large and extra large Castle T-shirts at a cost of \$6.00 each from Imageline Productions. Motion seconded by Martenis and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer