

Minutes of the **August 19, 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 Josh Cannon, JoEllen Hartley, Gary Martenis, Scott Newman, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher, Dick Waters and Gary Wilson. Ex-officio member Brent Smith (arrived @ 7:10 p.m.)

Members absent: none
Guest present: Brent Morgan

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

A welcome was extended to new member Smith.

Brent Morgan was recognized as City of Owosso Economic Development Coordinator. His purpose in attendance was to discuss some initiative improvements to the community, specifically the Owosso Walk of History in Curwood Castle Park and the Riverwalk improvements to extend from the Castle Park to the Steam Railroading Institute and connected to the TSBY Loop Trail. Environmental review is in process. The Walk of History will incorporate a brick wall containing plaques dedicated to persons of significance in Owosso history. Two or three commission members were sought as members of a committee to review and select the persons to be honored. It was hoped to begin the committee is a September-October timeline with the project to be completed in the spring. Gary Martenis, JoEllen Hartley and Piper Brewer volunteered to serve on the committee.

Brent Smith arrived (7:10 p.m.)

The minutes of July 15, 2008 were opened for approval. It was noted that the August 11th call for a special meeting was not acted upon as the required data had not been received. Motion by Hartley to accept and place on file minutes of July 15, 2008, supported by Martenis and motion carried.

Motion by Wascher to accept the July 2008 Treasurer's report. Support was given by Wilson and motion carried.

Wilson reported that personal and work commitments had prevented the completion of the Castle brochure for presentation. It was noted that the marketing director at the Hospital, Stephanie Motschenbacher, might take on completion of the task and provide a professional touch to the work. It was noted that the approximate printing cost for 1,000 four color 80# brochures would be \$410.00. The proposed brochure will be presented next month.

Members were informed that the Gould House garage bids as proposed last month were not let.

Smith detailed her efforts to tidy up the area behind the garage and the continuing problem with wasps and/or bees. The group determined that professional management may need to be taken after the active season is over.

Wilson reported that he had obtained specifications from John Archer for a re-roofing of the Carriage House and cupola repairs. It was noted that Huska Construction had presented a bid for \$11,403.00, far below the estimated cost. Cannon is to attempt the solicitation of two additional bids in the next week using the same specifications. Members voiced concern over the status of the roof and any detrimental effects in delaying the repairs until next year. It was discussed if it made sense to do the work timely from a bid at hand; to proceed with the footings and foundation of the garage, and to be confident that the Carriage House was secure. It was noted that Preservation Owosso's donation of approximately \$8,500 was designated solely for garage reconstruction. Motion by Newman to redesignate \$3,000 of commission earmarked garage funds to the carriage house if we opt to do the roof this fall. Support was given by Cannon and motion carried. John Archer will be consulted about the urgency of the Carriage

House work and it was noted that approximately \$8,500 of additional funds remain in the Home Tour account that could be earmarked to this project.

Wilson motioned to bid footings and foundation for the Gould House garage. Newman supported and motion carried.

Motion by Hartley to replace Carriage House roof dedicating \$3,000 funds previously moved plus unspecified \$8,500 from Home Tour designated funds. Supported by Newman and motion carried.

Tobey is to discuss with Archer the structural items of concern.

Brent Smith announced that this meeting would be his last as he is attending Hope College.

Members gave permission to the Friends and Neighbors group to use the Comstock Cabin for a community event September 13-14, if they are able to prepare and staff the building for the event. The Castle will also be available during regularly scheduled hours.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/ Treasurer