

Minutes of the **April 21, 2009**, 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, Gary Martenis, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher, Dick Waters and Gary Wilson.

Members absent: Scott Newman

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Brewer.

Motion by Martenis to accept and place on file minutes of March 17, 2009, supported by Smith and carried.

Motion by Wilson to approve the March 2009 Treasurer's report with support given by Martenis. Motion carried.

Hartley reported that one home owned by Scott Weckwert was definite for the 2009 Home Tour. Additional homes will need to be gathered for the September 19 event to be reality.

Members were given bid information for the Gould House Carriage Barn re-roofing project. Bids were received from Kulhanek & Sons, Bowen & Son, John A. Cannon and Huska Construction. Proposals ranged from \$4,780 to \$9,412. Motion by Martenis to recommend to council acceptance of the low bid from Kulhanek & Sons. Support was given by Hartley and motion carried.

Members were informed that DPW removed the old foundation and cleaned up the garage area at the Gould House. Motion by Hartley to go ahead with the concrete slab/foundation for the Gould House garage at a cost not to exceed \$4,990. Supported by Waters and carried.

By consensus members agreed that admission donations to the Castle during this year's festival should remain at a reduced price of \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for those 12 and under.

Discussion was held concerning the special train event to be held July 24-27. Members discussed potential ways to showcase Owosso history and to also raise funds. As several commission members are also vital components of other organizations, the lack of volunteer hours is an obvious drawback. It was suggested that a quality souvenir item at an attractive price might be the best way to raise funds. Several items were mentioned as possibilities but the limited time to execute production could hinder success. It was decided to focus on the castle, having the facility open extended hours, if possible, and having souvenir items available. Items presently available seem to be the best option. Docent hours will be extended. The series of Curwood paperback books should be in stock. "The Bear" DVDs will also be stocked. The availability of the Gould House apartments was mentioned as a potential revenue source. Motion by Martenis to make available the Gould House apartments for a four night stay at \$200.00 per night for each apartment. Wascher supported this motion and it was approved.

Chairman Brewer noted that Baker College will be designating the city block of properties obtained from George Hoddy as "Hoddy Square". A plaque with this designation will be erected highlighting Curwood's story on one side and Hoddy's on the reverse.

Members were reminded of the "Wall of History" dedication on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment by consensus at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer