

Minutes of the **July 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, Scott Newman, Crystal Smith, Charles Wascher, Dick Waters and Gary Wilson.

Members absent: none

Guest present: Natalie Burg, Downtown Development Authority Director

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

DDA Director Burg was introduced to commission members and asked to discuss the new "Main Street" Program in Owosso. This initiative through the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and administered through the Michigan Main Street Center (MSHDA) provides training to develop the downtown area. The Main Street Program in Owosso will be run through the DDA organization. Four focus areas are promoted. These are Organization, Promotions, Economic Restructuring and Design. In the first stages of implementation, volunteers are being solicited for each of the focus areas. After training in the fall, these committees will set the stage for Owosso development in the downtown. Commission members were informed that input on the Design committee would be appreciated to influence historic preservation and restoration of buildings in the downtown.

Motion by Martenis to accept and place on file minutes of June 16, 2009. Motion supported by Wascher and approved.

The preliminary June Treasurer's report was provided although members were informed that year end entries could be made before a final report was presented for approval.

Members discussed the recent roof replacement on the Carriage House. J P Kulhanek was secured to do additional work on the Carriage House, with the permission of John Archer. The installation of 39 sheets of OSB board, the replacement of approximately 20 linear feet of mouldings with repair and caulk of existing crown/fascia, lifting and bracing of eave overhangs and painting of all crown/fascia mouldings at a cost of \$1,226.00 was detailed. Motion by Martenis to accept additional work and to approve payment of \$1226.00 to J P Kulhanek. Motion was supported by Newman and carried.

Brewer informed members that in spite of additional efforts, Home Tour for 2009 would not be happening. She also reported that information about an alternative fundraiser was close to being able to be revealed.

Members asked if retired docents might be able to assist with staffing the castle during the train festival. Tobey will check protocol with Human Resources at city hall. A sign up sheet for commission volunteers was circulated. Members were

informed that the Chamber of Commerce/DDA information tent would accept volunteers from the commission to man the booth and provide information to those visiting Owosso during the Train Fest.

A folder of miscellaneous pictures/items from the Richard Harsh estate was reviewed and accepted.

Members declined interest in the purchase of a 1918 letter to an Owosso woman landholder informing her of her right to register to vote. They also declined an offer to advertise in a FOP fundraising pamphlet.

Former Docent, John Hughan, has been working on new displays for the castle. Members were receptive to his offer.

Member Wilson volunteered to survey donated Curwood book inventory at the Castle and to provide guidance for pricing of copies that might be offered to raise funds.

Members were informed by Hartley that the sale of items from Mr. Hoddy would take place on September 18-19.

Adjournment by consensus at 8:57 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Tobey, Secretary/Treasurer