MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
OWOSSO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Steven Teich.

ROLL CALL: was taken by City Manager Nathan Henne.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Teich, Vice Chair Omer, Commissioner Byrne, Commissioner Ferweda, Commissioner Powell

ABSENT: Commissioner Harrington

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Historical Commission Chair Lance Little

AGENDA APPROVAL: July 29, 2026, as amended to add a presentation of the Owosso Time Traveler program under Public Hearings.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, BY OMER SECONDED BY POWELL

AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES APPROVAL: May 20, 2026

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY FERWEDA. SECONDED BY POWELL.

AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Presentation: Owosso Time Traveler Program**

   Historical Commission Chair Lance Little presented the Owosso Time Traveler program, a collaborative digital history project developed with Michigan Technological University that uses an interactive, map-based platform to preserve and share historic photographs, newspaper clippings, and other records tied to specific locations throughout the city. Little described the program's use of historic Sanborn fire insurance maps and aerial photographs layered over current maps, its searchable historic photograph and postcard archive, and plans to expand the platform into a self-guided walking tour featuring QR codes at points of interest downtown. Little invited Commission members to contribute historic materials, help promote the program to local businesses and schools, and reach out with any questions or resources.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Historic District Commission district committee's division of responsibilities for the expansion of the District**

City Manager Henne presented background on the Carnegie Library Committee's request to expand the boundary of the Owosso Downtown Historic District to include the Carnegie Library property as a standalone, non-contiguous parcel, noting that inclusion in the historic district would give the Commission review authority over any future exterior alteration or demolition of the building and would provide a permanent means of protecting the building independent of its eventual reuse. Henne reviewed preliminary materials assembled for the nomination, including historic photographs, a history of the building provided by the Shiawassee District Library, and a draft architectural description.

Henne outlined the process for expanding the district: preparation of a written historic district study documenting the property's historical significance and architecture, consistent with the Commission's adopted standards and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines; notice to the property owner and legal notice of a public hearing; a public hearing before the full Commission; and submission of the completed study to SHIPO for final approval. Henne proposed that the Commission serve as the study committee, meeting immediately following each regular Commission meeting on the same date, and offered to prepare the written study and public notices while inviting members to be as involved in the drafting as they wished.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF THE COMMISSION AS THE HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE DISTRICT TO INCLUDE THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY PROPERTY, WITH THE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS, MADE BY BYRNE. SECONDED BY POWELL.

AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Members discussed the proposed vacant commercial building registration and inspection ordinance, which the Commission previously recommended to City Council and which is under review by the DDA. Members also reviewed examples of other repurposed Carnegie libraries in Michigan as context for the Library Committee's ongoing consideration of the building's future use.

Members also confirmed the division of responsibilities for the Carnegie Library boundary expansion study: Ferweda will prepare the architectural analysis, Powell will prepare the history of the property, and Henne will handle the legal notices, public hearing, and submission of the completed study to SHPO.

Henne updated the commission on ongoing code enforcement efforts with 3 buildings downtown. Commission Byrne wished to revisit enforcement on 123 N Washington. After discussion, the Commission took no action and expressed the need to let the current Certificate for the property to expire in September before taking any enforcement action on the owner.

NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2026

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.