

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Charles Block, Dave Moehn, Sharon Harp, Chuck Ford, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst), David Varley (City Manager), and Brian Wright (Ward 2 – Council Liaison).

ABSENT: Carol Foss (Excused) and Russell Savage (Resigned in advance of March term expiration).

GUESTS: Jan Garza, Andy Andrews, Karen Gaede, Caleb Ford, Chris Ford, Franz Hoenig, and Rusty Andrews.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:20 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ford MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the November 18, 2015, REGULAR MEETING (No meetings were held in December 2015 or January 2016 due to lack of Quorums). MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. Watkins showed a PowerPoint presentation detailing concerns and also repair work that he and Franz Hoenig have completed:
 - a. Replaced West Officer’s Barracks walkway (2nd story porch).
 - b. Repaired Gift Shop porch.
 - c. Installed false walls in Enlisted Men’s Barracks (North 2nd Floor and South 1st Floor).
 - d. Constructed two new bunk beds.
 - e. Constructing tables.
 - f. Rebuilt River Gate.
 - g. Replacing Stockade wall.
 - h. Blockhouse 3 is in bad shape. It needs to be replaced or rebuilt.
 - i. Blockhouse 2 wall is bowing out. Bottom log has rotted.
 - j. There are holes in some of the walls of the Enlisted Men’s Barracks.
 - k. Fire damage repairs were not done properly.
 - l. Some walls are separating.
 - m. The Gift Shop walls are rotting.
2. Past and Upcoming Events:
 - a. February 2: Pack 7 Cub Scouts at Old Fort.
 - b. April 2: Watkins and volunteers will make a presentation at the Western Illinois Museum in Macomb.
 - c. April 14 – 15: Living History Weekend at Old Fort.
3. Activities:
 - a. Staff remains busy doing miscellaneous repairs.
 - b. Watkins is researching and collecting information on people who interfaced with Old Fort Madison personnel:
 - i. Native Americans.

- ii. Indian Agents.
 - iii. Contractors.
- c. Watkins distributed copies of some of his personnel research.
- 4. A general discussion ensued among Board Members and Guests regarding Repair Needs and Priorities.
 - a. Watkins stated that foundations are too low under the buildings.
 - b. Any new construction should raise the foundations enough to prevent logs from being submerged during floods.
 - c. Moehn mentioned that repair costs are presently estimated at \$500,000.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. Luna included a summary of revenues and expenses in the agenda.
2. Luna also emailed the detailed report to Commission members.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. No report as the Gift Shop is closed for the season.
2. Watkins did report income of approximately \$19 from sales to the Cub Scout group.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Two new members are now needed.
 - b. Russell Savage has opted not to renew his Commission membership.
2. The December and January meetings were cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
 - a. The December and January meetings were each cancelled because sufficient Commission Members were available to conduct business in either month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor, Brad Randolph, is a guest speaker today.
 - a. Mayor Randolph was in transit and was not able to get back to Fort Madison prior to adjournment. In the Mayor's absence, City Manager, David Varley, presented highlights of some of the topics the Mayor had intended to address:
 - b. Various groups are getting prepared for the planned start of Viking Cruise Line stopovers at the Fort Madison Dock.
 - c. The cruise vessels could potentially be in port for four hours.
 - d. The Old Fort Madison Replica is being looked at as being the centerpiece of the Fort Madison stopover.
 - i. There could potentially be bus tours to other area attractions in other communities.
 - ii. It would be desirable to keep tourists in Fort Madison if possible.
 - iii. One possibility would be for a packaged tour to Fort Madison attractions.
 - iv. Varley reported that the folks who operate the Nauvoo Living History activities would be willing to consult on possible ideas. These could include:
 1. Designing a hands-on experience for visitors to the Old Fort.
 2. Make the Old Fort a "destination".
 3. The Nauvoo group might be willing to bring some displays and programming to Fort Madison and lend experience at no charge.
 - v. Varley would like the Commission to discuss and come up with ideas at the next meeting so he can take feedback to the Nauvoo group.

2. Easter morning Sunrise Service at the Old Fort Replica will be on Sunday, March 27th.
 - a. Jan Garza (Guest) stated that this is the annual Easter Service conducted by the Fort Madison Parish Partners Group.
 - i. The Service will actually be held at 7:00 AM, not Sunrise.
 - ii. Watkins stated that interior space would be made available in case of inclement weather.
 - b. Moehn stated that this shouldn't require a vote.
 - c. Luna stated that a Vote was required to allow the church service in the City Park.
 - d. Ford MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to allow the Easter Service. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.
3. Old Fort's Budget for next fiscal year: \$108,000 plus \$65,000 for repairs.
 - a. The operating budget is down \$1,000 from last year due to removal of Water Bill line item.
 - b. The \$250,000 allocated for infrastructure improvements to Riverview Park includes a \$65,000 allocation for the Old Fort Replica.
 - i. The Old Fort Commission will have some discretion as to how this amount will be expended.
 - ii. Watkins outlined repair needs in his report.
4. Set priorities for repairing or rebuilding for buildings and facilities: Factory Building, Gift Shop, Black Smith Shop, etc.
 - a. Watkins has suggestions on priorities.
 - b. Watkins would like Commission members to visit the Old Fort Replica and comment.
5. Friends of Old Fort Madison: Donation from Marlene Barnes of \$1125 to the Battlefield Fund. FoOFM is being combined with the North Lee County Historical Society and their next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the NLCHS museum.
 - a. This agenda item information was excerpted from Andy Andrews (Guest) NLCHS report.
6. Russell Savage and Chuck Ford's terms expire in March.
 - a. Savage has indicated to Luna that he will not seek reappointment and has tendered his resignation for the balance of his term.
 - b. Ford announced at the meeting that he would accept reappointment.

NON AGENDA ITEM:

1. Luna announced that Commission elections will be held at the April Commission meeting for the positions of Chair and Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT: Ford MOVED and Harp SECONDED, to ADJOURN the MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 4 -0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:14 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date