

Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 5:15pm
Old Fort Replica

PRESENT: Sharon Harp, Joe Thurman, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), Dave Moehn, Dr. Marie Brady-Whitcanak, John Luna (Management Analyst), Carol Foss, Richar Abel, and Linda Baxter (Gift Shop)

ABSENT: None

Guests: Andy Andrews (NLCHS) and Jadi Zeoui

Meeting called to order by Harp at 5:30pm.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the June 21, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

Site Managers Report:

1. Military History Weekend:

- A. 100 attended on Saturday but 35 did not tour
- B. Most were from out of town
- C. Majority of uniforms from wars of 1812, Civil War, WWI, WWII and Vietnam were donated by local individuals.

2. Siege:

- A. In September 9-10, 2017
- B. Fife and Drum Corp is not attending
- C. Galesburg, IL men may come and have an encampment with re-enactors.
- D. Men from Ft. Atkinson may come and bring 10 or more men who have a field kitchen.
- E. Some money has been donated for food
- F. John will check with Larry Driscoll about obtaining a water hose with spigots.

3. Pamphlets:

- A. New pamphlets are needed
- B. A new sign is needed out front with accurate information
- C. Maybe Boy Scouts could help

4. Improvements:

- A. Medical supplies have been moved downstairs.
- B. Room #4 is coming along fine
- C. Room #3 has no money for renovating, so is being used for storage.
- D. Siding for the Gift Shop's east and west sides will be approximately \$1,000 and materials around \$600.
- E. Will be obtaining 2 raccoon furs, a muskrat fur and beaver rack for \$20.00. A hunter is providing an otter fur.
- F. Phil Hoenig has built the new bellows and forge. A local woman knows of a young blacksmith who can make small items such as candle holders, flint locks and can make repairs. She is hoping he can come for the siege.

5. Events Attending:

- A. September 18th is the Great River Road Conference in either Bellevue or Dubuque. Eugene will be speaking

6. Visitors:

- A. Attendance is up due to City Web Site ads
- B. Many from Des Moines, Iowa City, St. Louis and Chicago.
- C. 22 Foreign countries, 44 states, 119 Iowa towns

INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT:

- 1. Luna gave budget report. In September, we will receive out Hotel/Motel tax revenue.

GIFT SHOP:

- 1. Linda and Dawn Helling, Parks Administrative Assistant, are working together on running the gift shop.
- 2. Have had visitors from 12 foreign countries, 36 states and 56 Iowa towns.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Fort Logo for Coins:

- A. Tourism Commission is ordering wooden coins with our logo

2. Dr. Eugene Watkins Will Present a virtual "Training Tour" for Commission Members:

- A. Our touring of the Old Fort is postponed until next meeting due to the infestation of May flies

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion, Repairing Sign in Front of The Old Fort Madison:

- A. A new sign is needed out front with accurate information
- B. Maybe Boy Scouts could help

2. Old Fort Madison Staff:

- A. One or two employees will need to be hired in March or April 2018
- B. Have interviewed a few but not many qualified. Need to run a descriptive ad. Uniforms are approximately \$1,000

3. Discussion, Halloween Programs at Old Fort Madison:

- A. Jadi Zioui, new business owner in Fort Madison, is interested in having a Haunted House at the Old Fort
- B. Will take place the last 3 weekends in October from 5-8pm running Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- C. Tourism Commission could run it and she has volunteers
- D. Public would not be allowed upstairs

Moehn MOVED, and Thurman SECONDED, to approve a HALLOWEEN PROGRAM AT OLD FORT MADISON. MOTION CARRIED.

Friends of Old Fort Madison:

- 1. Andy will be in Des Moines October 13th at the State Historic Building to promote putting the Battlefield site on the Historic Register.

2. Permission is needed from the City to move the chimney. It was noted that it has a large crack in the top rear section. Greg Abolt has equipment to move it. Need an estimate from him.
3. New sewers are being run down Avenue G between 2nd St and 10th St and not on Avenue H so it will be away from Historical Site.
4. Information on the grant for trees is needed.
5. Lot will soon be prepped so it will be ready for grass seed to be planted.
6. Donated flag pole will be placed in the center of the lot

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 5:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Marie Moved, Joseph Seconded, to Adjourn the Meeting. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm

Submitted,
Carol Foss, Secretary
Old Fort Commission