

**Old Fort Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 5:15pm  
Old Fort Replica**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** David Varley (City Manager), Andy Andrews (NLCHS), Ted Colbert and Darian

Meeting was called to order by Harp at 5:25 pm. Joshua Sessions was welcomed as a new member.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moehn MOVED and Brady-Whitcanak SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

**Site Managers Report:**

**1. Siege:**

A. 8 outside re-enactors participated and 200 individuals visited. The documentary film maker will return.

**2. Events Attending:**

- A. Mississippi Parkway Commission met in Marquette, IA. Watkins attended/spoke to the Commission to explain/promote the Old Fort.
- B. Lost Creek Cemetery Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Pioneer Patriots Day Ceremony for Revolutionary War soldiers buried there. In May there will be another ceremony for War Veterans.
- C. October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Old Prison Tour. At least 6 volunteers are needed that weekend.

**Income/Expense Report:**

- 1. Luna passed out Expense/Revenue Report. It was accepted by members.

**Gift Shop:**

- 1. Siege income was \$2,000 for the weekend. Have had visitors from 66 of Iowa's 99 counties

**Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

1. **Haunted house tours at the Old Fort on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>:** The organizers for the event were not present, but will meet with the Commission next week to give an update. This is scheduled for the last 3 weekends of October on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The times are in question. The Commission approved having it from 5 pm-8 pm, but it is advertised as 9 pm-midnight. Consensus was the time it was advertised for is too late at night. Valuable items will need to be cleared out before the first night. The upstairs will not be used, nor any of the Old Fort's uniforms. The contract was questioned and questions arose such as who must sign it and how the profits will be managed. Luna will contact the organizers to obtain the details for the October 18<sup>th</sup> special meeting. He will also prepare a contract and lease.
2. **Additional Volunteers are Needed:** On the days prison tours take place, more visitors will visit the Old Fort. Watkins is preparing for that.

### **Friends of Old Fort Madison:**

1. Andrews will be in Des Moines October 13<sup>th</sup> at the State Historic Building and will meet with the Screening Commission to promote placing the Battlefield site on the Historic Register. He would like many people to attend and represent the 1812 Battlefield.
2. Battlefield site needs to be disked to prepare for grass seeding which will be here this week. Water is at the lot, so the seed will be watered this fall. The flagpole has been ordered. The \$4,000 "Trees Forever" grant must be used by November 11, 2017; therefore, we need to contact Ritter's about what trees to order.

Next Meeting will be a Special Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** Foss MOVED and Thurman SECONDED a motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm

Submitted By,  
Carol Foss, Secretary  
Old Fort Commission