

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 5:15pm
City Hall Council Chambers**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Moehn and Linda Baxter (Gift Shop)

GUESTS: David Varley (City Manager), Andy Andrews (NLCHS), Martin Graber, Charles Block and Jadi Zioui

Prior to the opening of meeting, Martin Graber was presented with a plaque honoring him as one of the founders and a member of the Commission for 39 years. He was thanked for his many years of service.

Meeting was called to order by Harp at 5:15pm.

Approval of Minutes: Thurman MOVED and Sessions SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Site Managers Report:

1. Haunted House/Spook Night:

- A. Friday night went well but Saturday night was closed due to bad weather.
- B. Mix of out-of-towners and locals attended.
- C. Many used free tickets from the Parthenon Restaurant and one of the local radio stations.
- D. He fired 22 cartridges while 22 groups went through.
- E. On Friday night, Sessions watched the exit gate which was very helpful.

2. Events Attended:

- A. Lost Creek Cemetery Memorial for Veterans had trouble with their muskets. They will do the 1812 Veteran Memorial in May 2018.
- B. October 7th & 8th Old Prison Tour brought 140 people to the Old Fort. 95% were from out-of-town. Many were retired people. Revenues were \$700. Many locals wanted free tickets where out-of-towners had no problem paying.

3. River Documentary Group:

- A. Arrived Oct. 9th at 6:30 am and stayed all day. Some of their work can be seen on Facebook.
- B. They started in New Orleans and were continuing up river to Minnesota.
- C. 2 of the leaders were from Georgia

4. Inventory:

- A. Tool box is done.
- B. Transcribing inventory.

Income/Expense Report:

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

Gift Shop:

- 1. No report.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Friends of Old Fort Madison:

- 1. Andrews and Diana Holmes went to Des Moines for the National Park Service meeting. He gave a 10-minute presentation. It should pass by December with no problem.
- 2. Trees Forever program has granted us an extension on planting the trees at the battlefield site until the end of May 2018, due to the drought this summer and fall.
- 3. Want to get the lot planted with grass seed and fertilizer this fall.
- 4. Being on the register, should be eligible for more grants.
- 5. Hope to have the project done in 2020.
- 6. Watkins added he would like to have the Old Fort open as follows due to increase in visitors:
 - A. Weekends in April and summer hours in May.
 - B. Weekends Sept. to Oct. (extend 1 month)

Adjournment: Sessions MOVED and Brady-Whitcanak SECONDED a motion to adjourn.
Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

Submitted By,
Carol Foss, Secretary
Old Fort Commission