

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:15pm
City Hall Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Moehn, Joe Thurman, Joshua Sessions, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager) and Carol Foss

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Marie Brady-Whitcanak and Richar Abel

GUESTS: David Varley (City Manager) and Andy Andrews (NLCHS)

Meeting was called to order by acting Chairperson Moehn at 5:20pm.

Moehn has been Chairperson for seven years and would like to remain on the Commission but not as Chairperson. Joseph Thurman offered to take on the position effective this meeting. He was unanimously voted into the position and was thanked by the members.

Approval of Minutes: Moehn MOVED and Thurman SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Site Managers Report:

1. Improvements:

- A. Showed pictures of the work and improvements, which consisted of the enlisted men's barracks, Room #4 ceiling and cross beams before they were worked on.
- B. In Room #3 a wall needs to be plastered and work is being done on bunk beds. The ceiling was finished which makes that space warmer.
- C. Painting has been done around windows.
- D. New gun rack has been hung.
- E. West wall wooden poles have been replaced. 25 feet still need to be done. Poles came from Alliant Energy and look authentic. They are 12 inches in diameter. It is taller than the original wall.
- F. Martin Graber has purchased a yoke in the amount of \$150 for the cannon barrel to sit on.
- G. Doors will be re-hung and mounted as originally made.
- H. The Orderly Room will also be worked on.
- I. Working on Audio Tours so visitors can walk around and take their own tour. The cost is \$45.00 per month. Visitors will listen on their phones.
- J. New flags are needed and there is enough money in the budget to purchase these.
- K. New coats for Eugene and workers will be ordered.
- L. Purchasing powder for cannon.

2. Operation:

- A. Will be open April 21-22 for the railroad show. Fort tours will be free for registered railroaders.
- B. Will be open weekends in May and perhaps in October.

Income/Expense Report:

1. City Manager Varley passed out a half year summary to all members. This showed a balance of \$14,443 as of December 31, 2017.
2. Hope to increase visitors and income.
3. Funds may be pulled from other sources to pay for fort projects.
4. Lumber was purchased with some of "Dead Zone" profit funds.

Old Business:

1. Another Commission member, and fort workers, are needed. A replacement is needed for Franz but Caleb Ford may return. Money needs to be budgeted for new workers. An ad may need to be placed in the paper.

New Business:

1. Models of fort in block house #3 display case. Looking for people interested in model building.
2. Squirrels are destroying wood at the fort. Need to find a way to get rid of them.

Friends of Old Fort Madison:

1. Work will start at the battlefield site.
2. Grass seed and fertilizer will be planted in the spring.
3. In June trees will be planted and sidewalks will come later.
4. We will soon be getting charged for water.
5. The cement base for the flag pole will hopefully be in place before Memorial Day. The base will consist of an 18-20-inch tube. Mohrfeld Inc. will donate their time to install it.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm

Submitted By,
Carol Foss, Secretary
Old Fort Commission