

**Old Fort Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 5:15pm  
City Hall Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Marie Brady-Whitcanak, Joe Thurman, Dave Moehn, Richar Abel, Carol Foss, Joshua Sessions, and Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Councilman Rusty Andrews and Andy Andrews (NLCHS)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thurman at 5:17pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 17, 2018, meeting was approved as presented.

**SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- 1. Improvements: Dr. Watkins gave a detailed report on the work and improvements that have been done this past month.**
  - A. Painting and shelving.
  - B. Block House 3 has been cleaned and Block House 1 is finished.
  - C. Willows have been cut for wickings and some logs were replaced.
  
- 2. Operation:**
  - A. Audio tours are being worked on. Operating cost would be \$45.00 per month. Visitors would hook up to their phones. The tour would be 1 hour with 20 stops within the Fort but there can be fewer stops.

Dr. Watkins gave a thorough and detailed history of the Fort from 1808-1813. The Fort was part of the land treaty of Thomas Jefferson and was needed to counter the British influence. It was part of the factory system., and important diplomatic tool. Pictures courtesy of the State Archeological Society was shown. Alfred Kinsley decided on the Fort Madison location rather than Montrose. It became a booming trade center grossing \$10,000 from 1808 to 1811 and became an information gathering post. Fur trade was significant and was the most western site at the time. There were 108 men, 4 officers and 5 laundresses in November 1813 when the Fort was abandoned.

**INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT:**

City Manager Varley was absent but provided a printed income/expense report.

**GIFT SHOP REPORT:**

No report given.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Need New Members for Old Fort Commission:** no discussion.
2. **Discuss and Take Possible Action on Establishing New Hours:** no discussion.
3. **Discuss and Take Possible Action on Staying Open into October:** was not discussed although it was shared that the Old Fort will be open April 21-22 and Memorial Day weekend May 26-28. Also, it will be open Fort will be open Wednesday to Sunday in June, July and August.
4. **Current Improvements:** was given in Site Manager's Report.
5. **Number of Full Time Employees:** newspaper ad will be running in March for the part-time interpreters.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Discuss and Take Possible Action on Ordering New Flags for Battlefield and Fort:** there is \$2,000 donated toward purchase of flags. Will order 15-star, 15 stripe flag which was authorized in 1794. Flag sizes are 20x30, 8x12 and 5x8. A. Andrews suggested ordering 2 large and 2 small flags. A 35-foot flagpole will be ordered from a company in Des Moines that will deliver.
2. **Old Fort Opens for Train Meet and for the Season April 21-22, 2018. Discuss special events for the weekend:** no discussion.
3. **Discuss and Take Possible Action on Sending Facebook Event Notifications Detailing Times and Activities:** no discussion.
4. **Full Year Schedule of Events:** Dr. Watkins shared that in April he will be taking the cannon to Macomb for their town birthday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm the new gun will be fired, August 2-5 is Military History Weekend and September 8 & 9 is the Seige Reenactment at the Old Fort.
5. **Move March Meeting Due to Chairperson Being Out of Town:** March meeting will be held Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> instead of the 21<sup>st</sup> due to Chairperson Thurman going out of town.

### **FRIENDS OF OLD FORT MADISON:**

1. **Tentative Dates of Installing Flagpole and Moving of Chimney:** DAR members will be contacted and asked permission to move "Lone Chimney" across the street to the battlefield site. Foss volunteered to do this.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made and it was approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Submitted By,  
Carol Foss, Secretary  
Old Fort Commission