

**Old Fort Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 5:15pm  
City Hall Council Chambers**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** David Varley (City Manager), Andy Andrews (NLCHS) and Shelly Dowling

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thurman at 5:11pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March 19, 2018, were distributed to the present members. They were accepted unanimously as read.

**Site Managers Report:**

**1. Improvements:**

- A. Cleaning of the gift shop and Fort Buildings continuous.
- B. Work has been done on the mantle of the Officers Quarters and also shelving.
- C. Wickiups are being build but are in need of more poles.
- D. Audio tour is finished.

**2. Operation:**

- A. April 7<sup>th</sup> event at Macomb went very well.
- B. Fort will be open April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- C. When the Iowa State Penitentiary had their tours this last time, the Old Fort was open and had some tourist activity.
- D. \$300 donation was received from the Kings Daughters Association of Fort Madison.
- E. A Girl Scout Troop has requested to have an event next year, perhaps with a sleep over of 40-50 scouts.

**Income/Expense Report:**

- 1. City Manager Varley shared the income/expense report.

**Old Business:**

- 1. City Manager David Varley, passed out to all of the Commission members plans for the proposed rehab of Business Highway 61 from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It included the Lone Chimney, parking in front of it, new configuration of the street and proposed trees. Much discussion followed concerning the Chimney, as to who owns it, money needed if it were to be moved, repairs done to the top portion, and maintaining it. Mrs. Rupert is applying for a \$10,000 grant from the DAR and asking for bids to move it to the

Battlefield across the street if Commission votes to do so. Property lines also need to be clarified.

**New Business:**

1. The old Iowa State Penitentiary is offering tours in April and October. Jean Peiton should be notified to place an advertisement that the Old Fort will be open the same days. The Tourism Committee decides what the dates will be.
2. Dr. Watkins reported that the Old Fort will be open next weekend.

**Friends of Old Fort Madison:**

1. Battlefield trees will be planted in May.
2. Grass seed and fertilizer will also be planted in May.
3. When the planting is finished Alliant Energy will be notified for pictures.
4. Clarified that the Lone Chimney does belong to the City presented by DAR.
5. Big flag for pole is being made, no completion date noted.
6. Better communication is needed as to when the Old Fort is open.

**Adjournment:** Richar MOVED and Marie SECONDED a motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm

Submitted By,  
Carol Foss, Secretary  
Old Fort Commission