

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 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: Andy Andrews (NLCHS), Craig Smith, Cecilia Smith (DAR) and Shelly Dowling

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 18, 2018, were distributed to the present members. They were accepted unanimously as read.

Site Managers Report:

1. Improvements:

- A. Needs to be sprayed for insects. Craig Smith informed that he has an inexpensive formula for mixing a spray to rid the grounds of fleas and ticks.
- 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. Gathering a variety of furs to be placed in the Trading Post. Some of these will replace those stolen.
- D. Audio tour is finished.

2. Operation:

- A. Will be open every weekend in May.
- B. Have had visitors form 5 countries, 16 states, 15 counties and 19 towns.
- C. Van Buren County, Holy Trinity, Central Lee and Lincoln schools have all toured. Future tours are: Red Hat Ladies on May 24th and Bus Tour on May 30th.
- D. Memorial Day (May 28th) there will be a service at the battlefield at 9:00am. Will end with 3 shots fired.
- E. Flooding has not been bad this year compared to the past. Only on the road, not in the Fort or in the grass.

Income/Expense Report:

- 1. No income/expense report. City Manager was absent.

Gift Shop Report:

- 1. No gift shop report. Linda Baxter was absent.

Old Business:

1. Straighten the "OLD FORT" sign in disrepair: Still needs to be straightened. Dr. Watkins will work on using utility poles for the project.
2. Discuss adding a lighted Open/Closed indicator, to the Wooden Old Fort sign: Thurman offered to donate lighted signs. Craig Smith offered to make 12x48 wooden sign to hang. It was unanimously agreed that such signage was needed and the lumber for the project is needed.

New Business:

1. Discuss 50-Mile Bicycle Ride for Tourism: Dr. B. Marie Brady-Whitcanak presented information on the proposed 50-mile bicycle ride. After much discussion, it was suggested she get the Tourism Board and hospitals involved in promoting and sponsoring it. Help from the Sheriff's Office would also be welcomed and needed.

Friends of Old Fort Madison:

1. Grass seed has been picked up and will be planted this week.
2. Robin Delaney will print the application for the Community Foundation for us to receive \$7,000 of the \$10,000 available. The Elks will also give \$1,000 for the battlefield.
3. Shelley Dowling noted that the town and tourism department need to add historical information about our fort and museum to the guest bags handed out to those that visit the old Iowa State Prison on the tour days. She also spoke on "The Siege" held at the Old Fort the 2nd weekend of September. The bag pipers will be coming; therefore, we are in need of donated food for the participants.
4. Cecelia Smith, Regent for the local DAR chapter, stated that the DAR can donate the "Lone Chimney" as long as the recipients have a 501c3 number. The NLCHS has a non-profit number, so there should not be a problem.
5. Thurman, Craig Smith, Abel and Sessions agreed to go to the Old Fort after the meeting to observe the signage needs. Thurman and Smith plan to perform some immediate repairs then will report to our Commission in June.
6. Better communication is needed as to when the Old Fort is open.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm

Submitted By,
Carol Foss, Secretary
Old Fort Commission