

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 @ 5:15PM
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Charles Block, David Moehn, Carol Foss, Sharon Harp, Kris Schoene, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), and John Luna (Management Analyst).

ABSENT: Martin Graber (Excused), Roxanna Crail, and Neal Boeding (Council Liaison, Excused).

GUESYTS: Byron Smith (City Manager), Jimmy Wendorf (RSVP Director), Greg Olsen, Ted Kolbet, Chuck Ford, Chris Ford, and Bob Foss.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:15 PM.

APPROVAL of December 19, 2012 MINUTES: Block MOVED, and Foss SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. Watkins will make a presentation at the Montrose Heritage Center on February 4.
- B. Friends of Old Fort Madison are working on a display showing the construction of the Old Fort Replica.
 - a. The Display will be placed at the entry to the Gift Shop.
- C. Wendorf has been working on several Grant Applications.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Byron Smith, City Manager, will discuss insurance information and options for the future of the Old Fort Replica.
 - a. The Architect hired by the City has completed the inspection of the fire damage to the Old Fort Replica.
 - i. The Architect has determined that the damage cannot be repaired without disassembling the buildings.
 - ii. The Insurance Adjuster is not in agreement with paying for the scope of work called for in that assessment.
 - iii. The Architect maintains that the damaged sections cannot be simply removed and replaced.
 - b. Representatives of the City will meet with the Insurance Adjuster, Architect, and with the two Contractors (independently) to achieve a consensus opinion.
 - i. The resulting conclusion will then be presented to the City Council because additional funding will be required.
 - ii. Smith urged the Old Fort Commission members to be present at that Council Meeting to show support for the project.
- B. Smith stated that the proposed budget for the coming Fiscal Year includes an increase for Watkins to 40 hours per week (up from 35) and will include Flex Time provisions.
- C. Smith stated that a Grant Application has been sent to the National Park Service.
 - a. The request is for funding research at the National Archives and to plan possible development of the War of 1812 Battlefield Site.

- b. Results of the Application should be known by May or June.
- c. If the Grant is received, work would be done August – October of this year.
- d. Letters of Support were submitted by Holy Trinity and the Hotel Developer.
- D. Moehn requested Smith, who agreed, to give advance notice to The Commission, of the Council Meeting which will hear the results of the Old Fort Replica repair consensus.
- E. The current plan is to have the Old Fort open until construction starts, then determine operational details.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Bicentennial Activities for 2013.
 - a. More Signage is a possibility.
 - b. Moehn suggested something in November to commemorate the bicentennial of the abandonment of Fort Madison.
 - c. Moehn also suggested something could be done in July.
 - d. Watkins stated that he is not in favor of more reenactments since getting reenactors is becoming more difficult, and the big Siege event is in September during Rodeo.
 - e. Watkins also stated that, depending on scheduling of the fire damage repair to the enlisted men's quarters, getting reenactors to the Siege event could be in question since reenactors want to sleep in the buildings.
- B. Foss asked if the Old Fort should again have a float in the Rodeo Parade this year.
 - a. Harp and Watkins spoke in favor of having a float.
 - b. Commission consensus was to have a float.
 - c. Harp will work with Foss on the float project.
- C. The question was raised, Should we bring back the Lewis & Clark Fife and Drum Corps this year.
 - a. Consensus was that the Corps added a lot to the Rodeo Parade and Old Fort activities last year.
 - b. Watkins stated that the cost last year was \$1,500 plus lodging and meals so a fund raiser would be required.
 - c. Harp mentioned having a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser.
 - d. Watkins has been in contact with a gentleman from Wisconsin who stages old period baseball games.
 - i. Cost would be around \$350.
 - ii. This could be done as part of an event at the Old Fort – perhaps a Living History Timeline Event.
 - e. Moehn asked how much money to bring the Fife and Drum Corps here last year came from the Friends of Old Fort Madison fundraising efforts.
 - f. Watkins stated that most of the funds came from FoOFM efforts.
- D. Wendorf stated that things are going well and that he is working on Grant Applications and on Old Fort Events with Watkins.

ADJOURNMENT: Foss MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 5:40 PM.