

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

PRESENT: Martin Graber, Charles Block, David Moehn, Carol Foss, Sharon Harp, Kris Schoene, Chuck Ford, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst), and Neal Boeding (Council Liaison).

ABSENT: All Present.

GUESTS: Chris Ford, Bob Foss, Ted Kolbet, and Linda Baxter.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:18 PM.

APPROVAL of April 17, 2013, MINUTES: Graber MOVED, and Block SECONDED to APPROVE the MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED – Unanimous.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT: (Note: Because Watkins was detained closing up the Old Fort, this report actually given out of sequence.)

- A. Abolt Construction, Inc. of Fort Madison was the successful bidder to repair fire damage to the Old Fort.
 - a. Repair work will start in late May or early June.
 - b. Work is expected to be complete in early September.
 - c. The North Building is to be torn down and rebuilt.
 - i. New material will be used as necessary.
 - ii. A center wall will be added for stability.
 - d. The South Building is to be repaired log by log by jacking up the building and replacing logs as needed.
- B. School Tours yet to be given include Harmony, Central Lee, Heritage Baptist, Danville, Fort Madison Middle School, Great River Christian, and Holy Trinity Elementary.
- C. The Old Fort is now open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 AM to 5 PM.
- D. A new credit card machine is in use.
- E. The Old Fort will feature Military Weekends in June.
 - a. The Rifles, Raptors, and Reenactors event will be held June 13 – 16.
 - i. Military Vehicles will NOT be brought in for this event.
- F. Franz and Watkins went to Fort Meigs two weekends ago to participate in the siege.
 - a. While there they promoted Old Fort Madison events.
 - b. Watkins estimated that Fort Meigs took in approximately \$30,000 from about 4,000 visitors over the 3-day event.
- G. Status of Staff:
 - a. Chris will be back June 1.
 - b. Trent will be back.
 - c. Franz will be back.
 - d. Linda is back.
- H. Producers from the MTV show “Catfish” were in Fort Madison to arrange for filming background material for an upcoming show.

- a. Watkins signed an agreement with MTV.
- b. Crowd control could be a concern.
- c. It is desirous to have a good crowd when filming at the Old Fort – but not a mob.
- I. New uniforms are being produced locally by seamstress Shondra Knight.
 - a. Collars have been added to the new shirts.
 - b. Trousers and gaiters have been completed.
 - c. Graber suggested that this would be worthy of a news article.
 - i. Watkins indicated that he had written an article about the uniforms project.
 - d. Savings per uniform coat are estimated to be \$300.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: No report was available.

GIFT SHOP REPORT: No report was available.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Bicentennial activities for 2013.
 - a. June event.
 - b. July 4th event.
 - c. September rendezvous.
 - d. November anniversary of the burning and abandonment of the original Fort Madison.
 - i. Graber recalled that former Fort Madison educator, George Alton's 5th Grade Class used to stage an event commemorating the burning of the Fort.
 - 1. Block will contact the TAG instructor at FMMS to gauge interest in having the TAG students resume this tradition.
- B. New Officers elected.
 - a. A new Vice-Chair will be needed.
- C. Flood at Old Fort.
 - a. The Old Fort was isolated by the flood.
 - b. No water damage was experienced.
 - c. Water surrounded, but did not enter, the buildings.
- D. Nothing new on the War of 1812 Battlefield Site.
 - a. The Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) is concerned that bodies may be uncovered during any site development excavation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Abolt Construction will start the Old Fort repairs in one or two weeks.
 - a. The low bid was \$97k.
 - b. Next bid was from an Illinois firm for \$165K.
 - c. Work is expected to be done in September.
 - d. A center wall may be added in the North Building.
 - e. No new fireplaces will be added at this time.
 - f. All repair expenses are being covered by insurance.
- B. New Vice-Chairman, Kris Schoene will be leaving the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Schoen is being transferred by his employer to Quincy, Illinois.
 - b. Commission members thanked Kris for his service and wished him well in his new position.
- C. Opening for new Commission Member.
 - a. Luna stated that the opening is being advertised on the City website.

- b. Luna suggested that members seek out potential replacements and have those interested in serving to contact City Clerk, Malinda Blind.
- D. Election of new Vice-Chairman.
 - a. Moehn nominated Sharon Harp.
 - i. Block Seconded.
 - b. Graber moved that nominations cease and that Harp be elected by acclamation.
 - i. Block Seconded.
 - ii. Motion carried – Unanimous.
 - iii. Commission members congratulated Harp.
- E. North Lee County Foundation awarded the Old Fort a \$1,000 grant.
 - a. The grant will be used for uniforms.

ADJOURNMENT: Graber MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to ADJOURN the MEETING. MOTION CARRIED – Unanimous.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:20 PM.