

**Old Fort Madison Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 5:15 PM  
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Martin Graber, Charles Block, David Moehn, Carol Foss, Sharon Harp, Chuck Ford, and John Luna (Management Analyst).

ABSENT: Neal Boeding (Council Liaison) – Excused, and Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager) – Excused.

GUESTS: Byron Smith (City Manager), Chris Ford, and Bob Foss.

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

APPROVAL OF July 17, 2013, MINUTES: Graber MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED – Unanimous.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT: Watkins is attending administrator training related to the American Battlefield Protection grant.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: Luna emailed the detailed June 30 report to Commission Members on August 21.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: Portions of New and Old Business were presented out of order to accommodate the City Manager’s schedule.

- A. The American Queen riverboat will dock in Fort Madison on October 24, at the dock presently being used by the Catfish Bend casino.
- B. An American Battlefield Protection grant has been awarded to Fort Madison.
  - a. The grant is funded for \$51,000.
  - b. Dr. Watkins is presently taking the training required to administer the grant.
  - c. The grant is in two parts:
    - i. Part One is to conduct research on the Battlefield site.
      1. This could include a trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
    - ii. Part Two is to professionally prepare a Battlefield site plan.
      1. This is estimated to cost \$30,000.
  - d. Tentative plan is for the site to cover 1/4 to 1/3 of the city block bounded by 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Streets and Avenues G & H.
  - e. Smith will update the Holy Trinity School (site owner) Principal on the status.
- C. Moehn interjected that the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) has started a fundraising effort to preserve the battlefield site.
- D. A contract has been signed between the City and Abolt Construction for repair of the fire damage to the Old Fort.
  - a. Work will probably not start until the contractor finishes a parking lot project.
- E. Smith will get pricing to hire an architect who would then examine the condition of all of the Old Fort buildings and prepare a comprehensive plan and cost estimate for any needed repairs.
  - a. Smith stated that there will need to be a dialog with the City Council as to direction.

- b. Moehn added that he hopes the Old Fort Commission can have input.
- F. Smith stated the City may be hiring a Marketing Director.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Bicentennial activities for 2013.
  - a. Possible event in early November to commemorate the burning and abandonment of the original Fort Madison.
  - b. There will not be a siege at Rodeo time.
  - c. Consensus was to have the cannon in the parade.
    - i. Foss and Harp will co-chair this September 7, project.
- B. Schedule for repairs from fire damage.
  - a. See City Manager's Report.
- C. Opening for new Commission member.
  - a. Opening still exists.
- D. RAGBRAI, July 27, 2013, at the Old Fort.
  - a. This was good for the Old Fort.
  - b. Having the OSA display was a plus, but not well publicized.
- E. Old Fort desperately needs repairs due to continuously delayed maintenance. Architect needs to examine all Old Fort buildings and give estimates as to costs for repairs.
  - a. See City Manager's Report.
  - b. Note – at this point in the meeting there was much discussion of the pros and cons of maintaining the current Replica of the Old Fort as opposed to concentrating efforts and resources at the actual site of the original Old Fort Madison. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. State Archaeologist Fundraising Campaign for Battlefield and Fort Sites.
  - a. This was mentioned during the City Manager's Report.
- B. Park Service Grant to research Battlefield.
  - a. See City Manager's Report.
- C. City Manager will contact Battlefield Site owners.
  - a. See City Manager's Report.
- D. Non Agenda Item – Brian Shipley, Consul General of Canada would like to have an event to commemorate the 200 years of peace between Canada and the United States.
  - a. He would like the focus to be on Fort Madison with a possible event in 2014.
  - b. This would be a good time to get Local, State, and Federal officials on site to hear our story.
  - c. Perhaps 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry representatives could also attend.
  - d. A good time might be Memorial Day or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
  - e. Need to have ideas at the next meeting.

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

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:09 PM.