

**Old Fort Madison Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 18, 2013 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

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

ABSENT: Carol Foss – Excused.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Block MOVED, and Graber SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES.
MOTION CARRIED – Unanimous.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT:

- A. Staff BBQ was held on Labor Day and went well.
- B. The Siege went well, with 20 to 25 staff and volunteers, including 2 from out of state.
 - a. Over \$1,300 was taken in over the weekend.
 - b. The Fort featured the largest weapons display ever.
 - c. Volunteers marched in the Rodeo parade.
- C. Ted Kolbet has logged approximately 1,500 volunteer hours in the past 6 years, performing such tasks as volunteer, physical labor, and photographer, and should be recognized.
- D. Watkins and Frantz replaced door seals and built new steps on the Officer’s Barracks.
- E. A couple of Abolt’s crew showed up and will start work on Monday (September 23) at 7:00 AM.
- F. The bearskin hats have been repaired.
- G. Tours of the Old Fort were given to passengers on two American Cruise Lines river boats in August.
- H. The American Queen will dock in Riverview Park, with passengers to tour the Old Fort, on Thursday, October 24.
- I. Watkins has scheduled presentations or tours for the following groups:
 - a. September 6, Watkins spoke at the Historic Preservation group.
 - i. The group will help with the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) fundraising program for the Old Fort.
 - b. September 23, a School tour for the Macomb – Denmark Exchange Group.
 - c. September 23, Watkins will speak at the North Lee Genealogical meeting.
 - d. September 26, Watkins will speak at the South Lee Genealogical meeting.
- J. American Battlefield Grant:
 - a. Watkins has completed training.
 - b. The Grant will pay to hire consultants to devise plan for the preservation of the War of 1812 Battlefield at the site of the original Old Fort Madison.
 - c. Have to contact six potential consultants.
 - i. OSA will provide list.
 - d. The Grant will also provide funding for national archaeological research needed to learn more about the layout of the original Old Fort Madison.
 - e. We need to find out what the planners do.

- f. This project could be awkward because the City doesn't own the site.
- K. The Consul General of Canada is interested in having an event to commemorate the years of friendship between the USA and Canada.
 - a. He would like the event to be held at Fort Madison.
 - b. Hosting the event in the spring at the Old Fort replica could be risky because of flooding potential.
 - c. We should be looking at this as a Big Event.
 - d. We should consider inviting the Governor of Iowa and other elected officials.
 - e. Because of flooding concerns, perhaps Rodeo Weekend would be a better time to host the event in Riverview Park.
 - f. Graber MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to schedule the event for Rodeo Weekend, 2014.
 - i. The MOTION CARRIED – Unanimous.
 - ii. Watkins will contact the Consul General with this proposed date.
- L. Graber asked Watkins why the Old Fort Budget is showing an increase of approximately \$12,000 this year.
 - a. The short answer is that the Site Manager is now a full time position with benefits.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: Luna emailed the detailed Revenue & Expense Report and the detailed Balance Sheet Report to the Commission Members on September 17.

GIFT SHOP REPORT: Baxter distributed a detailed written report to Commission Members at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Schedule for repairs from fire damage.
 - a. See Site Manager's Report.
- B. Opening for new Commission member.
 - a. Opening still exists.
- C. 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 to be presented to City.
 - a. The architect is putting together a proposal.
- D. State Archaeologist Fundraising Campaign for Battlefield and Fort Sites.
 - a. Moehn can't get hold of the State Archaeologist to find out status.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. City Manager will contact Battlefield Site owners.
 - a. Moehn doesn't know if this has been done.
- B. Park Service Grant to research Battlefield and hire consultants for battlefield design.
 - a. See Site Manager's Report.
- C. In early November have a commemoration of the abandonment and burning of the Fort.
 - a. Moehn feels we should do something but not sure what.
 - b. Maybe Watkins can write an article.

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

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:01 PM.