

**Old Fort Madison Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 15, 2014 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

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

ABSENT: City Council Liaison (Replacement for Boeding to be named).

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Graber MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the November 20, 2013, Regular Meeting (No meeting was held in December). MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. The Battlefield Grant is now in the Research Phase.
 - a. Watkins has identified sources which have lead to additional sources of information.
2. A photo, circa 1809 – '12, of the Assistant Factor, Mr. Payne, was found.
 - a. This was accompanied by written materials related to Factor Johnson.
 - b. First Lady Dolly Madison was a Payne, but it is not known if the two were related.
3. All accoutrements from the Old Fort have been collected and brought up to City Hall.
4. Watkins made the Second Public Announcement of the American Battlefields Grant, in the amount of \$51,000.
 - a. The Contactor (to be selected) will be paid \$37,000 to design a Museum and devise a plan to protect the site from commercial development.
 - b. However, Watkins reiterated that the City does not own the site.
 - c. Watkins stated that Research costs cannot be more than 25% of the Grant and that there are restrictions on publishing any results from this research.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: Luna reported that, again, no Report is available due to budgeting still in progress.

GIFT SHOP REPORT: No Report is available since Gift Shop is closed for the Season.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Status of new Commission member.
 - a. Luna reported that approval of candidate Russ Savage will be on the Agenda for the next City Council Meeting (January 21 at 7:00 PM).
2. Architect needs to examine all Old Fort buildings and give estimates as to costs for repairs to be reported to the City.
 - a. The Architect (Metzger – Johnson) has not yet inspected the site.
 - b. It was reported that the Architect stated that he is presently shorthanded.
 - c. Moehn suggested that Commission Members need to be thinking about what to do going forward if the Architect's estimate is cost prohibitive.
3. Status of the Battlefield Site administered by HTC School Board.

- a. Moehn reported that he has spoken to the Principal and the HTC School Board about the Site.
- b. HTC is reportedly asking \$250,000 but would consider \$200,000.
- c. It was reported that a party has perhaps expressed interest and has until June to arrange finances.
- d. Moehn will speak to the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and request that OSA review site history with the Realtor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commission Members are encouraged to attend the Tourism Commission meeting at 6:00 PM Thursday, January 16, at City Hall. They will be discussing changing allotments from the Hotel / Motel Tax.
 - a. Commission Members are encouraged to attend the Meeting in Council Chambers to support the Old Fort.
 - b. Luna reported that City Budgets were sent out today and that funding for the Old Fort will be discussed at the Budget Workshop Meeting on Thursday, January 23, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers.
 - i. Commission Members are also encouraged to attend this meeting to support the Old Fort.
2. Update on planned research on original Fort funded by Park Service Grant.
 - a. Watkins reported that a trip will be made to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to conduct research in accordance with requirements of the Grant.
3. City will be resurfacing Avenue H along Fort site. Potential archaeological opportunity.
 - a. Moehn reported that the former Iowa Highway 2 (now a city street) will be resurfaced, including those portions in front of the original Fort Madison and Battlefield Sites.
 - b. He stated that this would be a good opportunity to do an archaeology investigation under the street.
 - c. Luna reported that this project is not immediate and is still several years in the future.
4. Non-agenda Item: The status of the North Lee County Foundation account was questioned.
 - a. To continue the account requires that a \$10,000 balance be maintained.
 - i. Moehn asked for ideas for raising this amount.
 - ii. It was mentioned that a donation jar had been set out at the Gift Shop but the proceeds were being used for incidental expenses.
 - iii. Watkins stated that this could be redirected to the NLCF account.
 - iv. Ted Kolbet stated that he is willing to donate photographs which could be sold at the Gift Shop as a fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT: Graber MOVED, and Ford SECONDED, to ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:18 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date