

**Old Fort Madison Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2014 at 5:15 PM  
City Council Chambers**

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

ABSENT: City Council Liaison has apparently been assigned by the Mayor.

Guests: Bob Foss.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:17 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Harp MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the March 19, 2014, Regular Meeting. Motion Carried 6 – 0.

**SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. A new cover for the Old Fort Brochure has been developed.
2. The Old Fort is now open weekends.
3. Next Month the Old Fort will be open Wednesday – Sunday.
4. The Gift Shop has taken in approximately \$700 since the Old Fort was opened for the season.
5. Watkins made presentations on:
  - a. April 3 in Macomb, Illinois, at a commemoration for General Maccomb's birthday.
  - b. April 10 to the DAR.
6. On April 20 the Fort Madison Parish Partners will hold early morning Easter Services in the Old Fort.
7. The following groups will be touring the Old Fort:
  - a. May 7 – a retired teachers group.
  - b. May 15 – Danville School.
  - c. May 27 – New London School.
8. Watkins is working on the Quarterly Report required as a condition of the Battlefield Grant.
9. The contractor has not yet finished chinking the fire damaged buildings.
10. Watkins and staff are working on Museum Displays.
11. The Fur Trade Display will be moved from the North Blockhouse.
12. Watkins is working with a fur trade inventory list to display with actual items.
13. The March 29 Boy Scout group drew approximately 120 people to the Old Fort.
  - a. The Gift Shop was not open for that event since Baxter was ill.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: Luna emailed the detailed report to Commission Members on April 14.

GIFT SHOP REPORT: A formal report was not available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Martin Graber retires from the Old Fort Commission after 27 years of service.
  - a. Graber was absent, however it is planned that the Mayor will make a presentation to Graber at the May 6 City Council Meeting.
2. Results of Architect's examination of Old Fort buildings and his estimate of repairs.
  - a. Moehn and Watkins went around the Fort with the Architect and a Restoration Group.

- b. It was noted that not all logs are White Oak (the preferred material of construction) in the erection of the Old Fort Replica.
  - c. Some logs are Black Oak and some are Red Oak.
    - i. This is the reason some logs are rotting.
  - d. It was also noted that concrete mortar chinking was used in the construction of the Replica.
    - i. A sand/clay mortar should have been used.
    - ii. Sand/clay does not attract moisture as does the concrete based chinking.
    - iii. This is exacerbating the log rotting problem.
    - iv. The incorrect chinking will need to be redone.
3. Dr. Eugene Watkins' progress on the Park Service Grant.
    - a. Watkins is working on this.
    - b. A report is due in May.
    - c. The project needs to be completed within 2 years.
    - d. Still more research will need to be done.
  4. Work on non-profit status for "Old Fort Madison, Inc.".
    - a. Statements made at the March meeting regarding the history and current status were repeated.
    - b. Moehn will ask Graber if he was able to contact Napier about getting assistance in forming a new non-profit organization.
    - c. This will be necessary for receiving charitable donations for improvements to the Old Fort.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
  - a. Moehn stated that a new member of the Commission is needed due to Graber retiring from the Commission.
2. Easter morning service, April 20, at the Old Fort.
  - a. This event will be this coming Sunday.
3. Raptors, Rifles, and Re-enactor's Weekend June 13, 14, 15.
  - a. It is hoped that Mississippi River levels will allow this event to be held on June 13, 14, and 15 (Friday – Sunday of the second weekend in June).

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

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED by Moehn at 5:52 PM.

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David Moehn  
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date