

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

PRESENT: Charles Block, David Moehn, Carol Foss, Russell Savage, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst), and Brian Wright (City Council Liaison).

ABSENT: Sharon Harp (Excused) and Chuck Ford (Excused).

GUESTS: Linda Baxter, Shelly Dowling, Cheryl Ford, Courtney Ford, Andy Andrews, and Ted Kolbet.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Foss MOVED, and Savage SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the June 18, 2014, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Riverview Park flooded by the Mississippi River was the big news.
 - a. With the exception of the two front blockhouses, the river did not get into the main buildings.
 - b. The front gate (at River) is broken.
 - c. The south wall was undermined and is in danger of collapsing.
 - i. The Parks Department will shore up the wall.
 - ii. New pickets are on hand.
 - d. The cannon was removed prior to the flood.
 - i. The hub on one wheel was broken in the process.
 - ii. Cost to repair is estimated at \$500.
 - iii. Not sure if repairs can be finished in time for firing the cannon in conjunction with the 175th birthday celebration for the City of Fort Madison.
2. Tristan Sharpman has been hired to replace an employee who left after two weeks.
3. During the flood-forced downtime, Watkins has been consolidating research information collected for the NPS Grant.
 - a. Watkins shared highlights of the research.
 - b. Watkins has completed 90 pages and plans to publish the work when complete.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT: Luna stated that the report is not available at this time.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. Linda Baxter presented written reports for the months of May and June.
2. There was extensive discussion among Commission Members, Council Liaison, Luna and Baxter regarding ideas for marketing and advertising and how to best collect demographics of visitors to the Old Fort.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.

- a. Moehn reminded members that a vacancy still exists on the Commission.
- b. Moehn requested members to have potential candidates contact him or the City Clerk for more information on serving on the Commission.
2. Work being done to achieve nonprofit status for an Old Fort group.
 - a. Moehn stated that Bill Napier is assisting with efforts.
 - b. The nonprofit group would have to be separate from the Commission.
 - c. The question was raised as to cost to repair deficiencies in the Old Fort.
 - i. The City Council approved spending up to \$1,500 to perform a detailed analysis of the condition of the Old Fort.
 - ii. The Contract has not yet been placed with the Consultant.
 - d. Foss volunteered to help with follow through.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Flooding of Riverview Park and Old Fort Madison Replica.
 - a. See the Site Manager's Report.
2. Planning and Zoning Meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 6:00 PM with discussion on rezoning the Battlefield Site for a Dollar General Store.
 - a. The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission will be conducting final Plat Review of a Subdivision for Dollar General.
 - i. Moehn encouraged all Commission Members to attend the P&Z Meeting.
 - b. Moehn read the letter he had emailed to various individuals to encourage comments and attendance at the July 22 P&Z Meeting.
 - c. Moehn stated that the Historic Preservation Commission had passed a resolution opposing the placement of the Dollar General Store on the War of 1812 Battlefield Site.
 - d. Moehn then read the resolution he had prepared, for Old Fort Commission consideration, opposing the placement of the Dollar General Store on the Battlefield Site.
 - i. Andy Andrews, of the Historic Preservation Commission, spoke about his conversations with the State Archaeologist (OSA).
 1. He stated that he had received documents from OSA relating to the significance of the Battlefield Site and had sent them on to the Chairperson of P&Z.
 2. Andrews encouraged members of the Old Fort Commission to attend the P&Z meeting.
 - ii. Foss MOVED and Savage SECONDED to APPROVE the RESOLUTION. MOTION CARRIED 3 – 0, with Block abstaining because of a possible conflict rising from his serving on the FM Board of Adjustment and Appeals.
3. Possible future changes to the original Old Fort Madison site.
 - a. Moehn related a discussion he'd had with the owner of the Sheaffer Pen factory.
 - b. The owner is considering repaving the parking area adjacent to and west of the factory building (the remains of a good deal of the original Fort Madison are under this parking area).
 - c. The owner is considering allowing an archaeological dig and then imbedding an outline of the original Fort in the concrete and wondered if this might qualify for some type of preservation grant.
 - d. Moehn relayed this to the OSA who had no objection to paving but who also stated that no money was available to fund a dig.
4. City of Fort Madison Activities for their 175th Anniversary July 18 – 27.

- a. Fireworks are scheduled for Sunday the 27th.
 - i. Highway Business 61 will be temporarily closed to allow spectators to view from the street.
- b. Old Fort night is the 24th.
 - i. There will be free admission and night firing of weapons.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Moehn read from a notice he had received regarding the Bicentennial celebration of the Battle of Credit Island to be held on August 30, 2014.
 - a. Anyone interested can contact Moehn for more information.

ADJOURNMENT: Block MOVED, and Foss SECONDED, to ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:38 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date