

**Old Fort Madison Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 20, 2014 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

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

ABSENT: Russell Savage (Excused) and Sharon Harp.

GUESTS: Linda Baxter (Gift Shop), Andy Andrews, Shelly Dowling, Chris Ford, Ted Kolbet, and Bob Foss.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:22 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Foss MOVED, and Ford SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the July 16, 2014, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Things have been busier than expected at the Old Fort.
 - a. Tours for American Cruise Line were conducted on August 5th and 13th.
 - i. Another tour is expected on Sunday, October 12.
 - ii. Attendance has been around 40.
 - b. Heritage Baptist toured today (August 20).
 - i. Attendance was around 12.
2. Moehn and Watkins conducted a tour of the Old Fort with the structural consultant (Trillium Timberworks) hired by the City.
 - a. Preliminary Recommendations included:
 - i. Approximately 1/10 of the materials might have to be replaced.
 - ii. Non period window facings need to be removed.
 - iii. Use proper log cabin cleaner.
 - iv. Buildings need to be shored-up.
 - v. Addition of interior walls is recommended to strengthen the structures.
 - vi. Rotted logs need to be replaced.
 - vii. Remove improper chinking (this was started today, August 20).
 - b. The consultant was not impressed with the recently completed fire repairs.
 - c. One opinion is that the repairs have possibly made things worse.
3. The City OK'd using The Walker Collaborative to perform the design work on a War of 1812 Battlefield Site Interpretive Center in accordance with requirements of the National Park Service Grant (NPS).
 - a. This action stills needs approval of the NPS.
4. The Siege reenactment is scheduled for September 6 and 7.
5. The Old Fort will be represented in the Rodeo Parade on Saturday, September 6.
6. St. Luke's has donated a 15 Star US Flag, appropriate for the period.
 - a. This will be dedicated on September 6 with a reading of the entire Star Spangled Banner by Rich Harlow with music by Jim French.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. Luna stated that everything is going well but that a written report is not available at this time.

2. Luna stated that he would have the Current Report sent to Commission Members as soon as possible.
 - a. Luna emailed the Reports on the following day (August 21).

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. Baxter submitted her written report.
2. Baxter stated that the Old Fort was closed for 13 days (July 1 – 18) due to flooding.
3. Baxter also thanked Council Liaison Wright for his suggestion to relocate the Guest Book.
4. Foss indicated that she thought attendance was phenomenal considering the flood.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Moehn stated that the vacancy still exists.
2. City Council Meeting from August 5th approving the zoning for Dollar General Store on western half of Battlefield site.
 - a. At that meeting Council approved the recommendation of P& Z to allow subdividing the block bounded by Avenues G & H and 4th & 5th Streets in a 40/60 split.
 - b. Dollar General plans to occupy the western 40%.
 - c. No definite plans for the eastern 60% were forthcoming.
3. Moehn reminded that a Battle of Credit Island commemoration would be held in Davenport, Iowa, on August 30. (Non-Agenda Item)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eastern half of Battlefield site possible donation to Archaeological Conservancy (or Historical Society?)
 - a. Moehn stated that he hasn't heard if the Archaeological Conservancy is interested.
2. North Lee County Historical Society voted on August 12th to oversee the formation of a nonprofit "Friends of Old Fort Madison" group. There will be an organizational meeting on Tuesday, August 26th, 7:00 PM at the Old Depot.
 - a. This group is to be a non-profit organization for the purpose of receiving donations for betterment of the Old Fort.
3. August 20th examination of Fort Replica for estimates of repairs.
 - a. See the Site Manager's Report.
4. Siege in September. Dramatic reading of the National Anthem for its 200th Anniversary.
 - a. See the Site Manager's Report.

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

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:08 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date