

**Old Fort Madison Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 17, 2014 at 5:15 PM
Landing Conference Room**

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

ABSENT: Sharon Harp (Called – Excused), Carol Foss, and Brian Wright (Council Liaison).

GUESTS: Chris Ford, Julie Long, and Shelly Dowling.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ford MOVED, and Savage SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the August 20, 2014, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. The Siege went pretty well.
 - a. Staff and local volunteers were reenactors for the Siege.
 - b. There was one volunteer from Illinois.
 - c. Receipts for the Siege weekend were around \$1,300.
2. The Old Fort is now closed on week days.
 - a. We are now down to the final weekends of operation.
3. Old Fort Tours:
 - a. An informal group of 8 or 9 toured on the 16th.
 - b. A City Manager candidate and spouse toured on the 18th.
 - c. More tours are scheduled for:
 - i. September 26.
 - ii. September 29.
 - iii. October 10.
4. Watkins was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the North Lee County Historical Society (NLCHS) on the 9th.
5. Watkins was asked to participate at a Pioneer Patriots Day commemoration by Terry Altheid.
 - a. The event will honor Andrew Oilar, possibly a cousin of Abraham Lincoln.
 - b. The event will be held at the cemetery located at 3828 Valley Road, near Keokuk, on the 27th at 1:00 PM.
 - c. Watkins and several volunteers will participate, in uniform.
 - d. Watkins requested help to staff the Old Fort during their absence.
6. Watkins is working on the repair report from Trillium Timberworks.
7. The City has sent back the contract to the Walker Collaborative for design work on the War of 1812 Battlefield site.
8. Watkins has begun to formulate events for next year, including:
 - a. Reenactment of the Siege of the Old Fort.
 - b. A repeat, in some form, of the Rifles, Raptors and Re-enactors event.
 - i. Will explore a date other than Fathers’ Day weekend.
 - c. The usual 4th of July events.
 - d. Due to the complexity of logistics, another Military Weekend is doubtful.
 - e. Volunteer staff has suggested holding one Siege skirmish each month during the season.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. The report was not made available to Commission Members.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. A report was not available.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. A replacement to fill the April vacancy has yet to be named.
2. August 20th examination of Fort Replica for estimates of repairs.
 - a. Work with Trillium was mentioned in the Site Manager's Report.
3. August 26th Organizational Meeting of the nonprofit "Friends of Old Fort Madison" group.
 - a. A meeting was held at the NLCHS on August 26.
 - b. Andy Andrews is filling the role of Temporary Chair until the group gets organized.
 - c. The next meeting will be at the NLCHS on September 23rd at 7:00 PM.
4. August 29th visit to Battlefield by Sandy from the Sauk Reservation in Oklahoma, Bill Whittaker, and the head of the Iowa Historic Preservation Commission.
 - a. Sandy [Sandra Massey] was on her way to Credit Island (Davenport) to take part in a War of 1812 Bicentennial event.
 - b. This was the first visit to Fort Madison by the head of the Iowa Historic Preservation Commission [Doug Jones].
5. Siege in September. Dramatic reading of the National Anthem for its 200th Anniversary.
 - a. See Site Manager's Report for "Siege".
 - b. Only about 15 people were on-hand for the reading of the National Anthem.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Meeting of the nonprofit "Friends of Old Fort Madison", September 23rd at 7:00 PM at the Depot Museum.
 - a. See Old Business.
2. Pioneer Patriot's Day for War of 1812 Veteran Andrew Oiler by the Lee County Pioneer Cemeteries Association, September 27th, 1:00 PM.
 - a. See Site Manager's Report.

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Moehn asked if anyone had any comments.

- a. Considerable discussion took place among some of the members of the Commission and the Guests on several topics.
- b. Savage offered to help out at the Old Fort during the Pioneer Patriot's event on the 27th.

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

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:03 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date