

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 5:15 PM
Old Fort Madison Factory**

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

ABSENT: Russell Savage (Commission Member) and Brian Wright (Council Liaison).

GUESTS: Linda Baxter, Andy Andrews (Part time), Shelly Dowling, and Ted Kolbet.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Block MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the March 18, 2015, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. National Park Service (NPS) GRANT:
 - a. On March 18, the Walker Collaborative (WC) made a presentation of the Preliminary Draft at the Regular Meeting of the Old Fort Commission (OFC).
 - b. Since then the WC has incorporated some changes from input at the OFC meeting.
 - i. The WC will forward the revised Draft to Watkins who will forward it to the NPS.
 - ii. Watkins will receive input from NPS and will send those comments back to the WC.
 - c. The final report is due in September.
2. Friends of Old Fort Madison (FoOFM) Event:
 - a. Ed Bearss spoke at the Depot Museum due to inclement weather.
 - b. The Military Program received favorable comments.
 - c. Per Andrews, the FoOFM Volunteer Recognition Banquet grossed \$1,803. After expenses of \$1,468 the net amount raised was \$335.
3. Old Fort Tours:
 - a. Today the Girl Scouts toured the Old Fort.
 - b. May tours will include: New London, Grimes Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and a Boy Scout Group.
4. Other events for the balance of the year include:
 - a. April – This weekend – Living History
 - b. July – Artillery
 - c. August – Rifles, Raptors and Reenactors.
 - i. Next year this may be held as a part of Heritage Days.
 - d. September – Siege.
 - i. The Lewis & Clark Fife and Drum Corps will be at this event.
 - ii. Watkins is seeking donations to offset the \$650 cost for this group to come to Fort Madison.
 - iii. OSA artifacts from the State Archaeologist will be on display.
 - iv. Eight or nine Reenactors from Fort Osage (Missouri) might be attending the Siege in addition to the local Reenactor volunteers.

5. Iowa Job Service has now posted the Old Fort interpreter opening.
6. Watkins has ordered books for the Gift Shop.
7. Watkins has ordered 50 pounds of black powder.
 - a. Block suggested notifying the Fire Chief and to also get recommendations on secure storage.
8. Watkins is gathering information on every Regular Soldier stationed at Fort Madison.
 - a. Block mentioned that Fort Hays, Kansas, uses the old staffing information to create cards for visitors to follow the life of one soldier while touring the Fort.
 - i. Moehn mentioned that something similar is done at the Holocaust Museum.
 - b. Watkins added that very little information is available on the Native Americans who interfaced with Fort Madison.
 - c. Ford mentioned that he had talked with a Meskwaki tribe member at Tama who had information on Quashkwami (sp?).

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. The Income / Expense Report was sent directly to Commission Members.
2. Luna reported that YTD Budgeted Income and Expense is \$111,700.
 - a. Actual Expense = \$69,751.
 - b. Actual Income = \$69,752.
3. Luna will check on status of Hotel/Motel tax income.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. Baxter reported that \$54.44 in Gift Shop sales was received during the Ed Bearss visit.
 - a. Admission was not charged for this event.
2. Today is the first day of Old Fort operation.
3. The Old Fort will be open to the general public this coming weekend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. The position is still open.
 - b. Moehn reported that he has approached several people but no one has expressed interest.
2. Easter service at Old Fort Replica was Sunday morning, April 5, 2015.
 - a. Watkins reported that the service went well.
 - b. Approximately 30 people attended.
 - c. Attendance was light, possibly due to the weather.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On March 24th it was announced that the Friends of Old Fort Madison had reached their goal of raising \$50,000 to purchase the eastern half of the Battlefield site.
 - a. FoOFM will receive another \$2,000 from the North Lee Foundation.
2. City is planning to replace the sewer line along the south side of Avenue H in 2016. This will need to be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
 - a. Watkins and Moehn visited with the Public Works Director about the new sewer line.
 - b. The new line will be approximately 18 feet deep and run near the site of the original Fort along the south side.
 - c. A pumping station is also planned.
 - d. Moehn also contacted SHPO.

- e. Moehn reported receiving conflicting answers from the various parties involved as to archaeological requirements and plans to perform an archaeological survey of the site.
- f. Block MOVED, and Foss SECONDED, to have Moehn contact all parties concerned to ensure that the project complies with all archaeological requirements.
 - i. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

NON-AGENDA DISCUSSIONS:

1. Moehn stated that if Viking Cruise Lines plans to make regular stops in Fort Madison in the future.
 - a. Watkins stated that the Old Fort was one of the primary draws for Viking’s interest in Fort Madison.
 - b. Moehn stated that if Viking does indeed stop to allow passengers tour the Old Fort additional money will be needed to improve and repair the Old Fort.
 - i. Additional funds will also be required to increase staffing at the Old Fort.
 - c. It was stated that the Mayor has this as a high priority.
 - d. Sentiment was expressed that the level provided by the Hotel / Motel tax is inadequate.
2. Baxter wondered where to send visitors who, after touring the Old Fort, inquire about other community attractions.
 - a. RSVP no longer staffs the information facility at the foot of the Mississippi River Bridge.
 - b. Several suggestions were offered by those in attendance, including:
 - c. North Lee County Historical Society Depot Museums.
 - d. The Old Lee County Jail.
 - e. The North Lee County Court House.
 - f. The FM Art Gallery.
 - g. The Chamber of Commerce office.
3. Block stated that he felt that having Old Fort Commission Meetings at the Old Fort was a positive step.
 - a. Discussion ensued that it was good to have all Commission members and City Officials exposed to the Old Fort facility on a regular basis.
 - b. Block also noted that with the Old Fort being open until 5:00 PM it is difficult for staff to close up and be at the meeting for the regular 5:15 PM start time.
 - c. Block MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to hold all remaining Old Fort Commission Meetings, for the duration of the season, at the Old Fort Replica and to change the meeting time from 5:15 to 5:30 PM.
 - i. MOTION CARRIED 5 -0.

ADJOURNMENT: Foss MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to ADJOURN the MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:42 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date