

**Old Fort Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 5:30 PM  
Old Fort Madison Factory in Riverview Park**

PRESENT: Charles Block, Dave Moehn, Carol Foss, Sharon Harp, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), David Varney (City Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst), Brian Wright (Council Liaison), and Linda Baxter (Gift Shop).

ABSENT: Russell Savage (Excused) and Chuck Ford.

GUESTS: Andy Andrews, Ted Kolbet, Shelly Dowling, and Abby Wright.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Foss MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the July 15, 2015, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

**SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. Watkins and Staff have been "horribly busy".
  - a. Watkins, Hoenig, and several volunteers have replaced porches.
  - b. The wind-damaged stockade wall is being replaced.
    - i. Watkins interpreted the recorded pole length as including the underground portion.
    - ii. New poles now extend a shorter distance above ground than the original replica installation.
    - iii. Watkins feels that these are more historically correct.
2. Rifles, Raptors, and Reenactors went well.
  - a. Weather was very hot that weekend.
    - i. Watkins learned later that heat advisories were in effect.
    - ii. The event was well attended in spite of the heat.
  - b. A lot of weapons were available for viewing.
    - i. Nazi memorabilia was on display.
    - ii. A substantial amount of Soviet material was on display.
  - c. Watkins reported that there was a good turnout of volunteers and listed many names.
  - d. Excellent media coverage was provided by:
    - i. Radio station 101.7 FM.
    - ii. National Public Radio.
    - iii. The Burlington Hawk Eye.
    - iv. The Fort Madison Daily Democrat.
3. Watkins reported that National Geographic is creating a website to showcase the Mississippi River valley.
  - a. The Old Fort will have a spot on the site.
4. Watkins is expecting a good turnout for the September Siege, which is held in conjunction with Rodeo Weekend.
  - a. Approximately 50 Reenactors will be present.
  - b. The Lewis and Clark Fife and Drum Corps will be present.

#### INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. Luna reported that we are one month into the new Fiscal Year and no report was available.
2. Luna was asked if the Year-End report from the previous period was available.
  - a. Luna stated that it should be and would forward it to Commission Members.
  - b. [The Reports were emailed to Commission Members on August 20.]

#### GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. Baxter provided a written Report and gave a verbal summary of the income and attendance highlights.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
  - a. Moehn reported that the Commission is still one member short.
  - b. Moehn stated that he had personally contacted at least six people but was unable to spark any interest.
  - c. Dowling (Guest) stated that she knew of one person who had submitted her name to be on the Commission but it was being held with no action by City Hall.
    - i. Varney said he would check into the allegation.
    - ii. [Luna has since reported to Commission Members, on August 21, that the person in question, due to personal reasons, had never submitted her name.]
2. State level discussions on City sewer line which will cross over Old Fort site.
  - a. Moehn has seen several emails, back and forth, on the State level.
  - b. No one has approached the City regarding possible timing for next year.
  - c. Andrews stated that the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) didn't approve the contractor's archaeological consultant.
  - d. Andrews stated that he, the City Public Works Director, and H.R. Green representative marked paving to show where the Old (Original) Fort had been.
  - e. Moehn stated that he is still unsure as to where the sewer line is to be placed.
  - f. Moehn stated that he is willing to show the contractor where the original Fort was located.
  - g. Block suggested that since the original archaeological survey of the Old Fort was conducted by OSA, the OSA would be a logical source for maps to determine the exact location of structures, and perhaps they could assist in the field marking.
3. August 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Heritage Days.
  - a. This was covered under the Site Manager's Report under the heading Rifles, Raptors, and Reenactors.
  - b. Moehn stated that he called the event Military Heritage Days since there weren't any Raptors.
  - c. Watkins stated that he would probably stick with Rifles, Raptors, and Reenactors.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Friends of Old Fort Madison (FoOFM) activities. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25, 2015.
  - a. Andrews (Guest) reported that donations were down.
  - b. The Battlefield Site needs:
    - i. Weeds controlled.
    - ii. Grass mowed.
    - iii. NO PARKING sign to keep vehicles off the site.

1. Andrews (Guest) cited several instances where he had to contact people to get the vehicles removed from the site.
- c. Foss wondered if the old Welcome Center building could be moved to the Battlefield site to serve as a temporary Information Center.
  - i. Foss was told that the Commission has no control over the Battlefield site or the Original Fort site. The Battlefield is now owned by the Friends of Old Fort Madison (FoOFM) through the North Lee County Historical Society (NLCHS).
    1. She needs to present her idea to that group.
    2. Foss inquired if she would be welcome at that group.
    3. Andrews (Guest) assured her that it is a public group and she would be welcome.
2. Old Fort Madison activities for Rodeo Weekend.
  - a. The Siege Reenactment will be the primary activity going on at the Old Fort during Rodeo Weekend.
  - b. Watkins stated that 50 some reenactors will be present.
  - c. Watkins stated that the Lewis and Clark Fife and Drum Corps will be present.
    - i. Andrews (Guest) stated that donations to pay for the group are still short but that NLCHS / FoOFM will fund the difference.
    - ii. Watkins stated that the Fife and Drum Corps will be housed at the City Pavilion in Riverview Park.
    - iii. Luna stated that the Pavilion was previously booked for a Sunday morning church service.
    - iv. Andrews (Guest) stated that volunteers will be needed to clean up the Pavilion after the Corps departs since there will be a very short turnaround before the church service.
    - v. Andrews (Guest) added that he had heard that a church group had previously left the Pavilion a mess and left the water running.
    - vi. [Luna has since reported to Commission members, on August 21, the church group in question did not leave a mess nor had they left the water running.]
  - d. Watkins said that there would be a need for many volunteers during the Siege, especially for Lookouts to keep spectators away from the line of fire.

ADJOURNMENT: Harp MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to ADJOURN the MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:17 PM.

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David Moehn  
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date