

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

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

ABSENT: Brian Wright (Council Liaison) and Linda Baxter (Gift Shop – Note: Gift Shop is closed for the season).

GUESTS: Andy Andrews, Franz Hoenig, and Shelly Dowling.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ford MOVED, and Foss SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the October 21, 2015, Regular Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. There was a break-in at the Old Fort last week.
 - a. A bench was thrown off a porch.
 - b. Some of the doors were jimmied.
 - c. Foss questioned why there weren't any security cameras at the Old Fort.
 - d. Watkins said that this could be a possibility when we start making money.
2. The Old Fort is without power.
 - a. Contractor working on sewer project severed Alliant Energy's underground feed.
 - b. There is a generator available that provides some power.
3. We have the first of three \$5,000 installments of Midwest One's grant.
 - a. Luna reported that these funds, as well as fire insurance proceeds, are being held in an account separate from the City's General Fund.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. Luna provided Month to Date and Year to Date figures.
2. The Report Summary is shown on the published agenda for this meeting.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. No Report.
2. The Gift Shop is closed for the season.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need a new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Moehn stated that we still need a new member.
 - b. Moehn requested that any potential member names be submitted to him.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Need to work on budget for next year and long range plans.
 - a. Watkins stated that much work is needed to bring the Old Fort into condition suitable for the pending routine visits by Viking Cruise Lines.
2. Set priorities for repairing or rebuilding for buildings and facilities: Factory Building, Gift Shop, Black Smith Shop, etc.
 - a. Watkins stated that Viking will begin regular visits to Fort Madison, and the Old Fort, beginning in 2017.
 - b. Much work is needed on the physical facility.
 - c. Staffing will need to be substantially increased.
 - d. Watkins would like to:
 - i. Construct an Indian settlement replica outside the Fort walls.
 - ii. Separate the Factory from the Gift Shop.
 - iii. Build a new Factory.
 - iv. Build a new Gift Shop.
 - v. Build a more substantial Blacksmith Shop.
 - e. Foss wondered if the Old Fort could borrow money to construct new buildings.
 - f. Watkins said, Probably not, since the Old Fort is a City structure.
3. Friends of Old Fort Madison activities. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 7:00 PM at the NLCHS museum.
 - a. Andrews (Guest) stated that NLCHS has a new color copier.
 - b. There will be copies of the letter for mailing ready at the next meeting.
 - c. Volunteer Banquet will be April 9, 2016.
4. Shall we have a December 2015 meeting?
 - a. Watkins requested that a meeting be held.
 - b. At least 4 members indicated they could make the meeting on December 16.

ADJOURNMENT: Foss MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to ADJOURN the MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 5:59 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date