

**Old Fort Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 5:15 PM
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Charles Block, Dave Moehn, Carol Foss, Sharon Harp, Chuck Ford, Marie Brady-Whitcanak, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst), and Brian Wright (Council Liaison) – attended first part.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Andy Andrews (North Lee County Historical Society), Franz Hoenig, and Darian Warnhoff.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:18 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ford MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the February 17, 2016, REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

SITE MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. On March 5, the second break-in at the Old Fort Replica occurred.
 - a. Access was gained over the picket fence.
2. Between March 11 and 13, the third break-in occurred.
 - a. Access was gained by going over the picket fence.
 - b. All buildings were broken into.
 - c. Among the items missing are:
 - d. Wolf skin valued at over \$700.
 - e. Brass pipe/tomahawk valued at approximately \$25.
 - f. Catlinite surgical knife valued at approximately \$65.
 - g. Musician’s NCO sword valued at approximately \$500.
 - h. A pound of black powder cartridges.
 - i. Nothing was broken.
 - j. Intruders must have been relatively small to get through the building windows.
 - k. Some of the exterior lights have been fixed.
 - l. This is a difficult area for the Police to patrol.
 - m. The Gift Shop was not touched.
 - n. Several suggestions were offered by board and guests:
 - i. Surveillance cameras.
 - ii. Game cameras.
 - iii. Motion detectors.
 - iv. Appropriate warning signs.
 - v. Security system contract.
 1. Andrews stated that Per-Mar provides security service at the North Lee County Historical Society (NLCHS) Museum Complex.
 2. Luna said that he would solicit security system proposals from Per-Mar and ADT.
3. Watkins and Hoenig are doing repair work on all buildings.
4. Upcoming events:

- a. Watkins will give a presentation at the Western Illinois Museum in Macomb, Illinois.
 - b. The Train Show at the NLCHS will take place April 16 and 17.
 - c. There will be a Home School tour on April 22.
5. The National Park Service is sending emails questioning the status of the NPS Battlefield Grant Report status.
 - a. The Report should be closed out within the next couple months.
6. A supplier has approached Watkins offering numerous interpretive items for sale.
 - a. Watkins estimates that he has need for \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth of equipment, uniforms, and weapons.
 - b. Foss MOVED, and Harp SECONDED, to have Watkins give the Board a list and estimated costs of these needs.
 - c. Moehn felt we didn't need a motion since Watkins planned on doing this anyway.
 - d. Foss amended her motion to have Watkins limit his list to the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. Harp SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:

1. Luna gave a summary of year-to-date revenue and expense.
2. This report is also contained on the Agenda.

GIFT SHOP REPORT:

1. No Report because Gift Shop has not yet opened for the Season.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Need one new member for the Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Harp has approached a potential member who has an interest in History and teaches at the Fort Madison Middle School.
2. Easter morning Sunrise Service at the Old Fort Replica will be on Sunday, March 27.
 - a. It was pointed out that this service will actually begin at 7:00 AM.
3. Old Fort's Budget for next fiscal year is \$108,000.
 - a. This is down from last year due to removal of water from the budget.
 - b. The Old Fort will receive an additional \$65,000 from the Quality of Life Bond Issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Welcome to Marie Brady-Whitcanak, newest member of our Old Fort Commission.
 - a. Moehn introduced Brady-Whitcanak to the Commission.
 - b. Luna stated that Brady-Whitcanak brings a wealth of experience to the Commission.
2. Election for new Chairperson and Secretary of this Commission will be at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 20th.
 - a. No discussion.
3. Old Fort Replica will be open weekends in April, and full time beginning in May.
 - a. Watkins stated that the Replica won't be open for weekends until May and then full time after that.
 - b. The regular days for the Old Fort Replica will be Wednesday through Sunday.
 - c. The schedule will be changed to accommodate Viking Cruise Lines if necessary.
4. Repairs currently being done on Old Fort Replica repairs by Franz Hoenig and Eugene Watkins.
 - a. Drywall up now and will be painted.
 - b. Questions have been raised about the authenticity of the ladders to the upper level of the bunk beds.

- i. There isn't any information as to whether or not ladders were actually used in the early 1800s.
- 5. \$80,000 for Old Fort Replica repairs: \$15,000 over 3 years from Midwest One Foundation and \$65,000 from the Quality of Life Bond (through the Parks Board).
 - a. \$5,000 of \$15,000 is being used for some supplies and Franz Hoenig wages.
- 6. Set priorities for repairing or rebuilding buildings and facilities: Factory Building, Gift Shop, Black Smith Shop, etc.
 - a. Watkins has in his mind priorities (per Moehn).
 - b. Watkins suggested having the April meeting at the Old Fort Replica so he could show Commission members the repair needs and his priorities.
 - c. Watkins can't see spending any money on Blockhouse No. 3 repairs since it is in very bad shape and in need of replacement.
 - i. Watkins pointed out that electrical switchgear is housed in this building.
 - ii. An estimate some time back put the cost of razing and replacing Blockhouse 3 at \$80,000 to \$100,000.
- 7. Discuss adding additional coverage on Old Fort Cannon so it can be taken to different events and activities. Would increase premium \$59.00 per year.
 - a. Foss MOVED, and Block SECONDED, to authorize the additional expenditure. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.
- 8. Friends of Old Fort Madison: Battlefield site will be cleared and grass planted this spring. Dinner in April to thank volunteers. Next meeting of FoOFM in conjunction with NLCHS meeting on Tuesday, April 12th.
 - a. Per Andrews (guest):
 - i. Combining FoOFM into NLCHS didn't bring additional interest in the Battlefield Site.
 - ii. There has been no interest expressed by anyone to take charge of the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.
 - 1. This will not be held unless someone steps forward.
 - 2. This item will be on the NLCHS agenda for April 12.
 - iii. The donated lawnmower works.
 - iv. Foss and Brady-Whitcanak volunteered to help Andrews with a letter writing campaign to raise money for the War of 1812 Battlefield.
 - v. An application still needs to be filed to get the Battlefield Site on the National Battlefield Registry.

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

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:25 PM.

David Moehn
Chair, Old Fort Commission

Date