

**Old Fort Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:15 PM  
Old Fort Replica – Officer Quarters**

PRESENT: Charles Block, Dave Moehn, Carol Foss, Chuck Ford, Marie Brady-Whitcanak\*, Dr. Eugene Watkins (Site Manager), John Luna (Management Analyst)\*, and Brian Wright (Council Liason)\*.

\*Excused to leave early for other obligations.

ABSENT: Sharon Harp.

GUESTS: Andy Andrews and Ted Kolbet.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Moehn at 5:27 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Foss MOVED, and Brady-Whitcanak SECONDED, to APPROVE the MINUTES of the March 16, 2016, REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

**SITE MANAGER’S REPORT:**

1. Most repairs done.
2. Old Fort Replica opened last weekend for Train Show.
  - a. Saturday had good attendance.
  - b. Sunday not so much.
  - c. Took in around \$560.
3. Home School tour on Friday.
4. April 30 and May 1 will be the first official opening.
5. The stockade wall near the Gift Shop is falling down.
  - a. Repairs will cost more than \$65,000.
6. Blockhouse No. 3 (BH-3) will have to come down.
  - a. Can’t be repaired.
7. Security Signs have not yet been posted.
8. Watkins distributed a list of items needed for the Old Fort Replica.
  - a. Cost exceeds the amount directed by the Commission.
  - b. Nauvoo volunteers will need period clothing.
    - i. It would not be appropriate for them to wear their usual 1830s costumes.
9. Watkins is redoing the soldiers biographies.
10. Watkins is researching biographies of civilians who interacted at the Fort.
  - a. More than 60 civilians interacted here.
11. Wright asked for an estimate of the cost to rebuild BH-3.
  - a. Watkins said the last numbers he saw were in the neighborhood of \$100,000.
  - b. The power box is in the way.
  - c. The second story should be rotated 45 degrees.
  - d. Foundations need to be raised the equivalent of 2 logs, or higher.
  - e. Replacement cost for the entire facility is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000.

- f. The Replica was built in 1988 – 1989.
- 12. Wright asked what is the Old Fort’s share of Hotel – Motel tax revenue.
  - a. Luna stated that it is approximately \$65,000, or 32% of the total H-M tax revenue.
  - b. Moehn stated that when the H-M tax was instituted the Old Fort received 100% of the revenue.
- 13. Brady-Whitcanak stated that she had submitted a grant application for \$15,000 to the State Historical Society to clean up the War of 1812 Battlefield Site.
- 14. Andrews (Guest) announced that he has launched another fundraiser for the Battlefield Site.
  - a. He has received a bid in the amount of \$4,700 to haul away rock and bring in topsoil.
  - b. Commission members were reminded that the City does not own the Battlefield Site and has no involvement with it.
    - i. The site is owned by the North Lee County Historical Society.

**INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT:**

Summary information was provided by Luna and is listed in the Agenda.

**GIFT SHOP REPORT:**

- 1. See the Site Manager’s Report.
- 2. Watkins added that the current Gift Shop Manager will only be working 3 days per week.
  - a. Either current employees may have to be reassigned or an additional person may need to be hired.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Need one new member for the Old Fort Commission.
  - a. Still needed. If anyone knows anyone who might be interested they should contact Moehn or City Hall.
- 2. Election of new officers (Chairperson and Secretary).
  - a. No one present at the meeting expressed interest in either position.
  - b. It was mentioned that one member might be interested in the Secretary position.
  - c. The election was carried over to the next meeting.
  - d. The current Chairperson and Secretary agreed to continue on an interim basis until replacements are elected at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Tour of the Old Fort Replica to examine damage and deterioration, and to look at repairs being made.
  - a. The tour was conducted after adjournment of the MEETING.
- 2. (Non-agenda item)
  - a. A general discussion of MEETING TIME AND PLACE took place.
  - b. Block MOVED, and Foss SECONDED, that the MAY – SEPTEMBER MEETING PLACE BE CHANGED TO THE OLD FORT REPLICA AND THAT THE TIME BE CHANGED TO 5:30 PM. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.

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

MEETING was ADJOURNED by Moehn at 6:25 PM

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David Moehn  
Old Fort Commission

Date