

Oregon Heritage Commission

Oct. 18, 2021, 9a.m.--- APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners: Chelsea Rose, Rosemary Johnson, Kerry Savage, Anne LeVant Prah, Laura Ferguson, Kimberly Moreland, Todd Kepple, Mary McRobinson, Larry Landis, Michelle Woodard, Chrissy Curran, Ross Fuqua, Matías Trejo de Dios

Staff: Katie Henry, Kuri Gill

Public: none

1) **Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)** LeVant Prah

2) **Introductions** All

3) **Approval of Agenda** All

Savage moved to approve the agenda. Johnson seconded; approved.

4) **Approval of Minutes Aug. 9** All

Johnson moved to approved with amendment of adjustment to Johnson’s report. Kepple seconded; approved.

5) **Public Comment**

Carissa Burkett with the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg relayed to the Commissioners the programming they did related to Hispanic Heritage Month, their commitment to offering programs in English and Spanish in order to reach the Hispanic population of the community.

Efraín Díaz Horna, Board President of Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana, addressed the growing Hispanic community in Oregon rooted in the Spanish language, the importance of history of Oregon to Spanish speaking communities, emphasizing the Spanish presence in Oregon and throughout history to help the Hispanic community form a deeper connection with Oregon’s history, and the importance of multilingualism in Oregon.

6) **Oregon Heritage Update** Katie Henry

- **Staff Update** – Curran relayed that Joy Sears is back as the restoration specialist and Beth Dehn is back in a reworked position as the Heritage Technical Resources Specialist and the review and compliance specialist position is being advertised.
- **Land Acknowledgement** – Henry update the commission on the OPRD committee that was formed to work on a land acknowledgement statement to be used at Commission and Committee meetings. LeVant Prah wanted to make sure it included the opportunity to acknowledge region specific tribes when the Commission begins to travel again.

- Hybrid Meetings – Henry relayed there is an OPRD committee formed to discuss hybrid meetings in the future.
- **Translation** – Henry relayed that a conversation has started regarding translation services at OPRD and Gill and Henry
- **Conference Update** – Henry discussed the recent Oregon Main Street Conference. There have been 8 conference proposals accepted to the Oregon Heritage Conference. We are planning for in person in Corvallis but will be making a decision on whether to commit or move to virtual in January.
- **MentorCorps** – Henry updated the commissioners on the new application process which had 8 requests for MentorCorps.

7. **Museum Grant Update**

Kuri Gill

Gill updated the Commission on the results of the 2020 Oregon Museum Grants which had 10 completed projects and one project that needed to be extended. Normally this is reported on in July but it was pushed back a bit due to COVID for those who received a grant.

Gill also updated the Commission on the results of the 2019 Oregon Heritage Grants with 31 completed and one canceled project.

8. **Disaster Resillience Inventories**

Rebecca Ziegler

Ziegler presented on the inventories she did related to the Disaster Resillience Project.

9. **Break**

10. **Northwest Digital Heritage Update**

Nomination Committee

Henry updated the commission on the NWDH project including the need for a communication plan to promote the project. Fuqua discussed the current ingest taking place of about 50,000 new records. Ingests occur on a quarterly basis. Henry asked Commissioners if they knew of procedures related to taking photographs of collections as part of the catalogue process. Ferguson brought up that one of the critical questions is the purpose of the photographs and how that plays into the process.

11. **Value of Heritage Toolkit Discussion**

Henry discussed previous tools/studies/messaging that are included in the toolkit, the economic impact study that is in progress, and asked Commissioners what they see as priorities moving forward.

Moreland brought up the need for some type of tool that the African American community in Portland could use to help message to local government the importance of historic preservation to their cultural identity and heritage.

LeVant PrahL suggested mailing the Cultural Value of Heritage Flyer out to heritage organizations. Henry mentioned that may be a cost we could include in future Oregon Cultural Trust grant.

Trejo de Dios brought up the need to convey the value of heritage of the Spanish language and the need to focus on translating the toolkit into Spanish.

Ferguson discussed racism and anti racism work and thinking about what it means to be a more welcoming place.

LeVant Prahl asked to resurrect a committee to bring recommendations back to the Commission of some next steps for the toolkit. McRobinson, Moreland, Trejo de Dios, and Kepple volunteered to be on the committee.

13. Fieldwork Reports by Commissioners

All

Treo de Dios – played a video that was created for Hispanic Heritage Day and mentioned events at the Chehalem Cultural Center and Hallie Ford Museum.

Moreland – Been working on historic property group for SHPO to revamp state tax assessment program. Mentioned that three nominations will be reviewed at the upcoming SACHP meeting. Working with University of Oregon on the Statewide African American MPD.

Kepple – will be heading out to look at the affect of the bootleg fire on a historic tressle and see what can be salvaged. Working on a sidewalk project including some interpretation on historic sites along the river.

LeVant Prahl – Oregon Jewish Museums is creating a digitization strategy for their collections. Also bought a gallery next to the museum dedicated to civil rights exhibit.

Landis – working with OSU faculty, Oregon Black Pioneers, Black Oregon Landtrust, local chapter of NAACP on a project related to Leticia Carson site and also working with the tribes on this project. Will be presenting at Oregon Heritage Conference.

Fuqua – continuing with NWDH and talking with Orbis Cascade Alliance. Recruitment for State Librarian is moving forward.

McRobinson – Have hired two positions to help digitize audio recording and provide remote access of materials. Archives is scheduled to open to the public Jan. 3. Discussions at Archives on translating exhibits.

Woodard – Vistors numbers are going up. Travel Oregon is doing information gathering across the state. Arts and Cultural heritage has been brought up in planning conversations. Launched the first marketing campaign since the pandemic began. Opened up applications for community tourism assessments. Emphasized connecting with local marketing organizations to help promote events.

Ferguson – Opened new exhibit “Rethinking Fire”. Received funding to renovate exhibit on the indigenous Plateau.

Johnson – City of Astoria completed mapping of historic properties on public site and working on finishing scanning inventory sheets. Nordic Park is under construction. Toured the Smoke Jumper Museum in Southern Oregon.

Savage – helping residents with tax statements.

14. Adjournment 12:14 pm