



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Commission Meeting

The Oregon Heritage Commission is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to champion resources, recognition, and funding for preserving and interpreting Oregon's past. Founded in 1995 by the Legislature, the Heritage Commission is comprised of nine gubernatorial appointments and nine ex-officio members. The Commission is designated in [ORS 358.570-595](#) as the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in Oregon.

Commission Members:

Anne Levant Pahl (Chair); Laura Ferguson (Vice Chair); Maureen Battistella; Rosemary Johnson; Libby Provost; Randall Melton; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Chrissy Curran, State Historic Preservation Office; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

Monday, Aug. 21, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Minutes

1. **Business** (9:00 a.m.)
 - a. Introductions
 - i. Commissioners: Battistella, Ferguson, Fuqua, Johnson, Landis, Levant Pahl, McRobinson, Savage, Trejo de Dios, Tymchuck, Woodard. Staff: Amabile, Gill, Henry
 - b. Agenda Approval – Levant Pahl asked to approve agenda, Johnson moves to approve, Savage seconded. Approved. Minutes for previous meeting amended to include Landis, Johnson, motion by Savage, seconded by Trejo de Dios.
2. **Public Comment** (9:19 a.m.)
 - a. No public comment
3. **Oregon Heritage Staff Update**, Katie Henry (9:20 a.m., Information)
 - a. Henry covered new positions, including new commissioners that started on 8/1/23. A vacant position is being recruited for. Two more positions will term out in 6/24. Replacements are being looked for, with the goal of getting them from the same regions.
4. **d) MentorCorps**, Cam Amabile (9:23 a.m., Information)

Applications for 2024 closed the previous week. Amabile reviewed the statistics for 2023, both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 years. Four new mentors were brought on board. There are gaps in the program that Cam offered to cover. Cam reviewed where participants and mentors are located in

Oregon. There are other opportunities for people to interact with the mentor crew, including three Q&A sessions and a mentor training session in the past year.

Gaps include structural support for small organizations, farm and ranch experience, cemetery representation, disaster planning, and oral history skills. The current recruitment process seems to be successful and is working smoothly.

Cultural Trust Funds, Katie Henry (9:43 a.m., Information)

A lot of funds were spent on Northwest Digital Highway projects. Some is also spent on smaller organizations digitizing their records. Organizations have been working with Past Perfect to create plans for this process. Oregon has an option for using Omega as a service to set up databases.

Some funding went to equipment for lending out.

2020-25 Heritage Plan Evaluation, Katie Henry (9:57 a.m., Information)

25 organizations were surveyed, with 11 interviewed. The results should have been distributed to commission members. It provided a lot of information about the capacity of the groups, how the groups view their own efforts, and future opportunities for using the gathered information. Provost question: what happens with the information that is being gathered? The evaluation is being used to see how goals in the plan are being worked towards.

Oregon Heritage All-Star Grants, Kuri Gill (10:08 a.m., Information)

Grants this year were accepted by Albany, Bend, Cottage Grove, Salem. Projects included a digital presentation on women's history, documentation of an oldtown historical district, a downtown market analysis, and resources for visiting downtown.

Oregon Heritage Tradition Grants, Kuri Gill (10:11 a.m., Information)

Six heritage events accepted mini-grants for their events.

Volunteer Appreciation Grants, Kuri Gill (10:13 a.m., Information)

These were used to encourage people to participate in the online summit. Everyone responded enthusiastically when offered the grants. They were helpful in allowing groups to have space together again after a few years of Covid.

Allocation of Fiscal Year 2024 Funds, Anne Levant Pahl (11:21 a.m., Discussion and Vote)

OCT Partner Fund proposals include the Oregon Heritage Vitality Study, the Heritage Plan year two evaluation, Heritage Conference giveaways, harmful language research, and digitization kits equipment. No one voiced any concerns. Motion to accept this preproposal was put forward. Battistella proposed and Johnson seconded. No opposition to the vote.

Replacing the Chair Vote, Anne Levant Pahl (11:28 a.m., Discussion and Vote)

Levant Pahl is leaving the role and Ferguson is proposed to take over as Chair, with Johnson as Vice Chair. Savage made the motion to accept a new Chair and Vice Chair of the commission,

Battistella seconded it. Approval of Ferguson and Johnson was unanimous. Levant Prah1 was thanked for her time as Chair.

Commissioner Reports (11:32 a.m., Information)

Levant Prah1 – The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education reopened in June after being closed since February.

Ferguson – Introduced herself to new Commissioners.

Johnson – North coast museum visitation is nearly up to pre-Covid rates.

Trejo de Dios – Traveled to Mexico for presentations of the Hispanic history in Oregon.

McRobinson – There is a new secretary of state, LaVonne Griffin-Valade. Fees for retrieving records are going to be reduced at State Archives. Archives is hiring two new archivists.

Woodard – Museum visitation is about the same statewide as it was a year ago, excepting Portland.

Travel Oregon has launched a new campaign. Just closed their application cycle for competitive grants.

Landis – Leticia Carson Legacy Project homestead site continues to be worked on. Oregon Central Farm & Ranch program created 10 entries in the Oregon Encyclopedia.

Battistella – Will be doing a session at the OMA Conference.

Provost – Introduced herself and background.

Fuqua – State Library has brought new orgs into NWDH, including Benton County, Oregon Scenic Images Collection. Working with WA State Library on improving background info infrastructure.

Savage – Recommended two replacements for his role.

Henry – Getting cultural value heritage flier translated into four languages.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

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