

Oregon Heritage Commission

Aug. 9, 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

Staff: Katie Henry, Kuri Gill

Public: none

1) **Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)** Chelsea Rose

2) **Introductions** All

3) **Approval of Agenda** All

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

4) **Approval of Minutes June 7** All

LeVant Prah moved to approved with amendment of date. Savage seconded; approved.

5) **Public Comment**

None

6) **Oregon Heritage Update** Katie Henry

Henry updated the commissioners on the following:

- **Staffing/Budget** – Henry noted that commissioners may have seen in the news that OPRD received \$50 million from the legislative session but that is in addition to the budget and is earmarked for special projects such as facility upgrades, etc. It does not affect Oregon Heritage’s budget. Oregon Heritage/SHPO is in the process of hiring for an archaeologist position that was vacant due to the promotion of Jamie French
- **Conference** – Henry noted that planning is moving along and session proposals are open for those interested.
- **Oregon Heritage Grant** – Henry relayed that the Oregon Heritage Grant is open for applications.
- **Oregon Heritage Plan Evaluation** – Henry updated the commission with the adjusted evaluation plan for the Oregon Heritage plan.

7. **Northwest Digital Heritage Update** Katie Henry

Henry relayed that she, Ross Fuqua, and Evan Robb had done a State Library topic talk on this and had good interest afterwards and they plan to do a session at the OMA/WaMA conference in September. Henry mentioned the plan to have an Oregon Heritage Workshop in the fall on how to plan a digitization

project. Fuqua discussed the recent breakthrough of being able to harvest collections that use Past Perfect Online.

8. **Latino Heritage Summit Event Follow-Up Discussion**

Katie Henry

Henry followed up on concerns raised at the last commission meeting regarding the Latino heritage networking event from last April. Rose noted that she was surprised that Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana was not consulted prior to the event. Rose also mentioned it is an opportunity to discuss audiences for different events. There are events where we are targeting organizations that serve/work with the public and event where we target the public. On the topic of translation, Henry noted that in order for Oregon Heritage to effectively translate programs and materials we need OPRD to have the infrastructure, support, and resources. It is a conversation that Oregon Heritage staff is having with OPRD, especially when we have grant programs available to private individuals.

Henry invited commissioners to come to Oregon Heritage Staff with questions, concerns, brainstorming, or to be a part of planning processes and Rose invited Oregon Heritage staff to use commissioners as a resource. Henry reminded commissioners that if they wanted to do something formal about a topic they could do a position paper and Rose suggested that a less formal route could be putting recommendations in a Heritage Bulletin. Ferguson asked commissioners and staff to be mindful of partnership and levels of partnership. Rose brought up the importance of promoting relationship building. Moreland expressed insistence on addressing language barriers and being proactive. Landis recommended reaching out to the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

9. **FY21 Oregon Cultural Trust funds review and FY22 recommendations** OCT Committee

Henry reviewed the use of FY21 Oregon Cultural Trust Funds which included:

- All Star Grants
- 46 NAO Memberships and 3 webinars
- Consultant to revamp MentorCorps process
- Disaster Resilience value statement and inventories
- Awards videos

Henry reviewed the proposed recommendations for FY22 Oregon Cultural Trust Funds which includes mentor professional development, study of economic impact of heritage in Oregon, Conference, and supplies for Northwest Digital Heritage.

Johnson moved to accept the FY22 Oregon Cultural Trust recommendations. Kepple seconded. Approved.

10. **Chair and Vice Chair Nominations**

Nomination Committee

Moreland relayed the committee's recommendations of LeVant Prah for Chair and Ferguson for Vice Chair. Kepple moved to nominate LeVant Prah for Chair and Ferguson for Vice Chair. Savage seconded. Approved.

11. Break

12. **Nonprofit Association of Oregon presentation**

Jim White

Jim White, Executive Director of Nonprofit Association of Oregon, spoke to commissioners about what nonprofits have been through and what they are facing. He outlined four key areas to watch: people, resources, corporate structure, and relationship with community. Henry remarked on trust being high for

museums and how that trust is being leveraged in recent years for public initiatives like voting and the vaccine. Kepple brought up the issue in nonprofits in his region where no one wants to be treasurer and issues with fundraising because local businesses that used to be big donors have sold to corporate businesses that are hard to work with in terms of fundraising. White brought up untapped USDA funds and the importance of diversifying funding and finding untapped sources of funding. Johnson mentioned that with issues such as racial injustice and homelessness and housing that it does not leave local government and others the time and resources for historic preservation right now. White commented that in the hierarchy of needs often society things you have to pick one over the other but how do we get to a place where we can have both. Johnson stressed the importance of the economic impact study to accomplish that. Rose also mentioned that since mental health was such an issue in pandemics that she believes museums played a role in helping with that so we could focus on that aspect for value of heritage.

13. **Fieldwork Reports by Commissioners**

All

Rose – had a good field season for the Chinese diaspora project and she will be meeting with the curator from the Crater Rock Museum to update their cultural resources component.

Moreland – she is a member of the group reassessing the state tax assessment program.

Kepple – thanked Rose for serving as Chair.

LeVant Prah – museum reopened in July and the museum is focused on social justice.

Landis – submitted an entry to historic American landscape survey related to the Leticia and David Carson homestead site. He ended 25 years of service on the Benton county landmarks Commission.

Fuqua – Currently looking for the next State Librarian. Working hard to get ARPA grants out and the recipients include museums.

McRobinson – continuing to prioritize remote service. Recruiting for an audio archivist. Partnering with ancestry.

Woodard – received lodging tax numbers and there has been an uptick with the exception of Portland. Will be doing a presentation at OMA/WaMA on funding.

Ferguson – Appreciated Jim’s presentation. Busy keeping things going at the museum and supporting visitors and thanked Rose for serving as Chair.

Johnson – Thanked Rose for serving as Chair. NW Civil War Council will hold their event and it’s their first event in two years. Nordic Heritage Park and achieved their fundraising goals and groundbreaking will be on Aug. 19 and start construction. The city has a new planner that does not have historic resources background so she is still consulting for that. Museums numbers are down, river cruises are back but ocean cruises are not back on.

14. **Adjournment 12:03pm**