



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; Chelsea Rose; 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, May 22, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_scWWdjOkOzKDDMd2cXkV6g

Agenda

**all times are an estimate and items on the agenda may occur earlier or later*

1. Business (9:00 a.m.)

a) Introductions

Commissioners: Levant Pahl, Rose, McRobinson, Woodard, Fuqua, Battistella, Trejo de Dios, Savage, Johnson. Staff: Henry, Gill

b) Agenda Approval - Henry asked to move museum grant recommendations to after NWDH pathway projects instead of before, Savage moved, Rose second. Approved.

c) January 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval – Levant Pahl moved, Savage second. Approved.

2. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)

Cricket Soules let Commissioners know about a cemetery marker cleaning on June 17 in Coos Bay at the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery.

3. Oregon Heritage Staff Update, Katie Henry (9:20, Information)

Gill relayed news of the OPRD office consolidation from two floors to one and there will also be record consolidation from paper to electronic at the same time. Goal is to be done by end of December.

Levant Prah! asked how working remote has impacted the division and Gill said it depends on the team, outreach team has been good at figuring it out but that it is harder for the larger team to figure out the best way to do this. Battistella inquired about personal impact and Gill responded that everyone is responding to it individually based on various factors such as what they need for their work and their life circumstances and longevity of their career in that space. Rose asked how decisions were being made especially if some folks don't have the ability to have space in their home to work remotely Gill said that it is up to the employee about whether they want a cube or not but the unknown factor is for new employees and being able to offer that. Drop in cubes are being offered. Rose asked if employees are compensated for any increase in costs at home. Gill said that conversation is happening in Union negotiations and will remain to be seen.

Henry discussed the 2023 Summit and evaluation results showing that the top reasons for attendance was that it was virtual and a relevant topic. Battistella commented that the balance of interaction and lecture was good and that she asked us to consider more thought into the mini-grants in terms of structure and being tied to the content more. Henry also relayed that it was a good opportunity to bring up the Value of Heritage Volunteers Report.

Henry relayed that applications are open for recruiting new mentors.

Gill provided an update on the FEMA grant that IPRE applied for that would carry out the disaster resilience planning for heritage resources in all of the All-Star communities. The grant was successful and work on the survey piece has started and in September we will be working with the first two communities, Salem and Bend.

Henry relayed to the Commission that participating in the Heritage Plan Evaluation was much lower than the target but that it still yielded good information.

Henry asked for volunteers for the FY24 Oregon Cultural Trust Funds Committee and Levant Prah!, Johnson, McRobinson, and Woodard volunteered.

Henry reminded Commissioners that the terms for Chair and Vice Chair end in June and asked for volunteers for those positions.

4. NWDH Pathway Projects, Rachael Woody & Katie Henry (9:50 a.m., Information)

Henry and guest Rachael Woody provided an update on the Guidebook to cleaning up collection data and the past perfect case study.

Henry also provided an update on the pilot project related to the process for an unhosted collection being digitized and hosted on the Oregon repository courtesy of the State Library of Oregon.

5. Museum Grant Recommendations, Kuri Gill (9:30 a.m., Action Item)

Gill went over the 2023 Museum Grant applications and committee recommendations. Johnson moved to approve recommendations, Trejo de Dios seconded. Battistella abstained. Approved. Savage motioned to approved secondary ranking should any awardees be unable to complete the project, Rose seconded. Approved.

6. Break (10:25)

7. OSHA Museum Collections Initiative, Averie Foster (10:05, Information)

Guest Averie Foster from OSHA presented on early results from a federal initiative to review safety in museum collections. In summary, hazards observed included electrical hazards, confined space issues, chemicals were an issue both in the collection and out of the collection, and object hazards related to heavy metals. Exposure monitoring was done at sites across Oregon. Results are still being compiled but

at the moment recommendations include: Hazard assessments, label known or suspected hazards, wear powder-free nitrile gloves when handling the collection, wash hands. Johnson inquired about the expense to do this OSHA evaluation and Foster said it's only the employee time because the evaluation if funded by the state. Battistella emphasized the importance of getting this information into the hands of heritage organizations. Henry stated she will be working with Foster on the best way to get this information out including in the heritage news, our website, etc.

8. State Library of Oregon Strategic Plan, Wendy Cornelisen (10:35, Discussion)

State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen discussed the progress of the current State Library of Oregon Strategic Plan process.

9. Coordinating Collections Group Disaster Planning Resolution, Kuri Gill (10:55, Action Item)

Gill went over the process the Coordinating Collections Group went through to create a shared disaster response plan and how we can prepare for future disasters. With this plan Gill put forth a Resolution for the commission to support this effort and move it forward to the Parks Commission and Archives and State Library can move it to their agencies after which we can move it even higher. Battistella moved, Trejo de Dios seconded. Approved.

10. Constructing Hope Pre-Apprenticeship Program's Oregon Heritage Grant project: Building Legacy: BIPOC Construction Trailblazers in Oregon, Pat Daniels & Noah Koné presented on this grant funded project.

11. 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference Brainstorm, Kuri Gill (11:30, Discussion)

Kuri asked Commissioners for ideas related to challenges, opportunities, examples, and topics to consider for the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference. Levant Prah mentioned oral history training was a need, McRobinson mentioned digitization, Landis added accessibility to digitization and applying metadata cleanup guidelines, Battistella mentioned the native american boarding school site in Forest Grove and offered input on a mechanism that might allow folks to honor those who have made long term contributions to the field, Fuqua brought up inclusive metadata, Johnson asked for more sessions directed to planning and historic preservation and review and compliance and FEMA regulations, Trejo de Dios emphasized accessibility to data which includes language and wants to see Spanish language inclusion in the event.

12. Commissioner Reports (11:50 a.m., Information)

Henry thanked Rose for her time on the Commission.

Fuqua – Working on the NWDH pathway projects, working with State Archives to migrate a digital collection

Rose – working on a walking tour of Jacksonville with Oregon Black Pioneers, summer passport in time with the Chinese Diaspora Project based on citizen science projects, next year is the 44 annual Jefferson Historical Group Meeting.

Woodard – draft strategic plan for Travel Oregon is open for comment and an organization re-design is being considered. Competitive grant program is opening in June.

Landis – Historic preservation month activities currently happening an OSU student is trying to get OSU certified as an arboretum.

McRobinson – Passing of tribal cultural value assigned to records for retention.

Battistella – no report

Trejo de Dios – Been presenting about the publication *Los Origenes Hispanos de Oregon* in different cities and libraries and school districts and the next presentation will be at the Jefferson County library district in Madras. Are traveling to Mexico to do 4 presentation.

Kobrowski – in the process of writing standards and sharing the draft of standards with community organizations and the general public, have integrated ethnic studies into the standards.

Savage – Baker Historic Society are working to help some museums in the region and the county library in trying to provide Past Perfect regionally.

Johnson – asked Gill for a comment on HB3414 and Gill responded that our agency cannot take a position but that testimony has been presented but we don't have updates.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

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