

Oregon Heritage Commission
November 8, 2010
Southern Oregon Historical Society
106 N. Central Ave.
Medford, Oregon
Approved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Kimberly Jensen, George Kramer, David Lewis, E. John Rumpakis, Roger Roper.

Commissioners Present by Phone: Eric Martin, Carol Michael, Jan Mitchell, Layne Sawyer, Jim Schepke.

Staff Present: Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill.

Visitors Present: Allison Weiss, Bruce Sargeant.

Kramer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Commissioners introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda: Lewis moved to approve the draft agenda; Jensen second. Approved.

Welcome delivered by Allison Weiss, executive director of the South Oregon Historical Society.

Technical Assistance Program: Weiss said that the SOHS contract with the Commission has enable them to build relationships with other heritage organizations and to become preservation advocates with these organizations by providing assistance to them. It is currently working with 13 organizations. Initial evaluations are done to help set up priorities. Classes on several topics and archival supplies have been provided, with some borrowing equipment to measure temperature and humidity.

Public Comments: Sargeant of Buckhorn Springs talked about the history of the site that is on the National Register and its use as a meeting facility. He also shared information about a Buckhorn Springs cookbook that has been published.

Approval of Sept. 27 Minutes: Martin moved to approve the minutes. Michael second. Approved.

Commissioner Reports and Comments: Jensen commented that the Century of Action suffrage centennial effort appreciates the Commission's support. She also reported that the Oregon Encyclopedia now has 700 entries available online.

Schepke said that there had been discussion at the Commission's meeting in Echo about an expanded partnership between the Commission and the Encyclopedia. He said there needed to be more discussion about that. Kramer said he saw two issues: a decision on the Oregon

Encyclopedia, and the decision-making process for the funds received from the Cultural Trust. Roper noted the Cultural Trust ultimately has to approve the selection. Jansson said the Cultural Trust will next make its allocations in July. This discussion will be continued at the February or April meetings.

Lewis said he serves on the Oregon Geographic Names Board which is trying to figure out how to rename more than 100 locations with racially-insensitive names. He also is part of the effort to create a Willamette Falls Heritage Area.

Rumpakis reported he had attended a reception in Portland organized by the Astoria Bicentennial effort.

Heritage Fellowships: Jensen reported she had served on the committee that helped select three students for Oregon Heritage Fellowships. The students are researching projects on bicycle tourism along historic roadways, 1960s education at Chemawa Indian School, and the documenting of lesbian land communities.

Grant Programs Update: The Commission awarded seven Museum Grants in December a year ago. Jansson said three museums have finished grants, while four have received extensions because of different circumstances.

Heritage Vitality Assessment: Jansson briefly reviewed the draft recommendations that the Commission had created at its September meeting. Mitchell said the recommendations were accurate as related to the discussion. She said the Commission needs to ask Governor-elect Kitzhaber to understand and support the Commission's recommendations.

Jensen said it is important for the Commission to educate Oregonians about the status of their heritage. Commissioners said a timeline to develop the plan would help. Roper noted that to start the Task Force rolling a legislator needed to be found to introduce legislation. Kramer said he was willing to ask Rep. Buckley if the Commission wanted him to. Some discussion ensued on who should be on the Task Force. Michael said it was important the Commission have information about the economic and cultural value of heritage, before it goes to counties and other funders for help. She asked that the fourth recommendation be amended to include education. Jensen made a motion to approve the recommendations with the addition of Michael's amendment. Rumpakis seconded. Approved.

Here are the four approved recommendations:

- 1. Request that the 2011 Legislature appoint an interim task force to examine state and county financial support for Oregon heritage organizations, and to develop solutions that provide adequate and stable resources.*
- 2. Determine the economic and cultural value of heritage to Oregon, including its direct and secondary impacts.*
- 3. Strategically communicate consistent information about the value and importance of heritage to the economy and daily lives of Oregonians.*

4. Increase the capacity of heritage organizations and businesses to collaboratively expand their leadership, development, preservation, community-building, communications, educational offerings, and technology.

Commissioners offered suggestions for making the report more dramatic and compelling. Kramer said it is an opportunity and an obligation for commissioners to promote the report and its recommendations. Talking points will be developed for Commissioners. Commissioners also suggested other methods for distribution and monitoring of the report.

Legislative Preview: Roper said the Legislature's schedule with annual sessions will be different than with biennial sessions. Several heritage-related bills are likely to be introduced. Sawyer said the State Archivist is working with the Attorney General on bills to overhaul the public records law and bring them in to ORS Chapter 192.

Oregon Historical Society update: The successful passage in Multnomah County of a special levy for OHS was noted. Jensen made a motion that the Commission thank the Multnomah County commissioners for their support of OHS and the value of heritage to Multnomah County by placing the measure on the ballot. Rumpakis second. Approved.

Traditional Cultural Properties: Lewis said there is a need to document traditional cultural properties, and perhaps the Commission could take on that role. He said the information would help people know what's important and why it is important. Designations of them could provide some protection. He noted they are sometimes difficult to document. Roper noted that the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation might be the more appropriate place for consideration of this as the Oregon Revised Statutes might already give them authority to make such designations.

Heritage Communities Program: Roper said he had initially presented the concept of the Oregon Heritage Communities several years ago as a way of educating communities about heritage. To qualify, cities would need to satisfy about three-quarters of the options. Perhaps, he said, funding could be found as a reward for cities that earn the designation. Commissioners offered suggestions for additional criteria. Rumpakis moved to authorize staff to proceed with the development of a Heritage Communities program, including seeking funding. Mitchell second. Approved.

Heritage Excellence Awards Program: Jansson said nominations may now be made for the 2011 awards. He asked each commissioner to give him the name of one person or organization who could be considered for awards. Jansson also encouraged commissioners to make donations to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Adjourn: Kramer adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.