

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 19, 2014

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Agenda Item: 7a

Information

Topic: Heritage and Community Programs Update

Presented by: Roger Roper, Assistant Director – Heritage and Community Programs

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## **SHPO Regulatory Streamlining Through Programmatic Agreements (PAs)**

PAs are a tool used by SHPO and federal/state agencies to streamline the process for assessing and minimizing impacts to significant historic and archaeological sites. PAs give agencies more latitude in making routine decisions on their own, beyond what the standard regulations allow, especially when the agencies have qualified cultural resource staff. PAs typically require agencies to submit an annual report to SHPO to demonstrate that they have handled the routine reviews appropriately.

SHPO has PAs in place with many agencies; some are more up-to-date and effective than others. Two PAs that we have dealt with in recent months are worth noting:

- **BLM PA:** BLM and SHPO staff have been working for several years to revise the state “protocol” (BLM’s term for the PA), but staff turnover at BLM, shifting priorities, and other obstacles delayed progress. Finally, this past spring, BLM renewed its efforts to complete the protocol, initiating a new process to avoid some of the pitfalls that thwarted earlier efforts. The new protocol was signed in late October. SHPO anticipates that this new document, and the process that was used to create it, will be a model for other agencies to follow. This new protocol has promise to reduce workloads and improve results for both BLM and SHPO alike.
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service PA:** This 1997 document has been showing its age for several years now. It included provisions that were no longer appropriate, so much so that virtually all of the tribes in Oregon refused to acknowledge it any longer. As a result of tribal opposition and other problems, SHPO terminated the PA this summer, but at the same time offered to re-engage with USFWS to work on completing a new PA—an effort that had stalled out in the past year. Until the new PA is completed, USFWS will have to revert to following the standard federal regulations, a more cumbersome process.

## **Heritage All-Star Communities Leverage Special Funding for Broad-based Projects**

The Oregon Heritage Commission has chosen to earmark \$25,000 of its Cultural Trust funds (about half of its FY2015 allocation) to award as grants to the five designated Heritage All-Star Communities: Albany, Cottage Grove, Oregon City, Roseburg, and Salem.

The Heritage All-Star Community program, which began in 2012, is designed to help communities make the most of their historic resources. Communities must meet at least 15 of 20 criteria (see Attachment A) in order to achieve All-Star status. One of the goals of the program is to encourage communities to bring together all of their various heritage organizations to provide a more effective and coordinated delivery of local heritage services.

OHC awarded \$5,000 to each of the five All-Stars to help them boost their ongoing heritage efforts. A good example of how a community can use this small grant to generate large impacts is Cottage Grove. Their grant, which leverages other funding, includes the following activities:

- Develop and design a website for Main Street Cottage Grove with subpages for Heritage Partners with no websites and links to those with websites.

- Update and print the Tour of Historic Downtown Cottage Grove brochure in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Host a collections storage workshop for the Heritage Partners with collections using the Oregon Heritage MentorCorps program.
- Support the Cottage Grove Museum's quilt project that will professionally document and archivally store 45 quilts and exhibit some of the quilts in conjunction with the Cottage Theater's performance of *The Quilters*.
- Purchase archival storage materials for the newspaper collection of the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society.

**Prior Action by Commission:** N/A

**Action Requested:** None

**Attachments:** Attachment A, Heritage All-Star Community Criteria

**Prepared by:** Roger Roper

## Item 7a—Attachment A

### HERITAGE ALL-STAR COMMUNITY CRITERIA

Please check off each criteria that your community meets. A community must currently meet at least 15 of the 20 criteria to be designated as a Heritage All-Star Community. If your community meets at least 10 criteria and submits an Application of Interest may receive additional assistance from Oregon Heritage to attain the Heritage All-Star Community designation.

- **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM:** The city has adopted a historic preservation ordinance and has a local landmarks commission that meets regularly. Achieving Certified Local Government (CLG) status through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) fulfills this requirement.
- **HISTORIC SITES REGISTER:** The city has an active process for surveying and documenting historic properties and listing significant historic properties in either a local historic sites register or the National Register of Historic Places.
- **NON-PROFIT PARTNER:** There is at least one non-profit 501(c)3 heritage organization located in the community, and it works closely with the city and others at promoting an important aspect of the community's history.
- **CULTURAL HERITAGE COALITION:** The community's heritage organizations/committees have met at least annually for five years to coordinate efforts and maximize resources.
- **GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS:** The community has obtained and successfully completed at least five grants within the past decade for heritage-related projects.
- **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Within the past decade, the community has produced or conducted a substantial public education offering, including interpretive signage, walking tour, publication, or other media presentation that promotes the community's history.
- **HERITAGE WEB SITE:** The community maintains an up-to-date web site that provides meaningful content about the community's history, including a listing of the heritage activities and programs available in the community (such as the items on this list of Designation Criteria).
- **SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** A school located in the community regularly sponsors the annual National History Day competition, includes local history studies in its curriculum, or has an ongoing effort that allows students to assist in conducting tours of local historical sites or participate in other local history events and activities.
- **OREGON MAIN STREET PROGRAM:** The community has an active Main Street program that has been accepted by Oregon Main Street (OMS) into either of the top two tiers of participation: Transforming Downtown or Performing Main Street.
- **LONG-TERM LOCAL BUSINESSES:** The city has three or more locally owned, active businesses that have been in operation for 50 years or more, and it has a program for recognizing that achievement.
- **HERITAGE TOURISM PARTNERSHIP:** The community has historic markers, public interpretive panels, walking/biking/driving heritage related tours, heritage/history

brochures, heritage trees designated by the Oregon Travel Experience, programs with Travel Oregon and the community has promoted those features through public education and tourism promotion efforts.

- **HISTORY MUSEUM:** The community has a history museum that operates during regularly scheduled hours. In order for a museum to qualify under this category it must have been in operation for at least two years, have an on-site attendant, and be open at least 120 hours per year. A “heritage tourism facility” may substitute for a museum under this category if it has substantial heritage-related offerings and meets the requirements described above.
- **PUBLIC RECORDS ARCHIVE:** The community has a policy in place for handling and preserving archival, historic, government, and other public records that complies with professional standards.
- **ORAL HISTORIES:** An organization is functioning in the city that has implemented an oral history program that records, transcribes into written form and make accessible to the public interviews with long-time residents or individuals involved in events or activities of a historic nature.
- **HERITAGE EVENTS:** The community has conducted an event or commemorative activity on an annual basis for at least 25 years to recognize an aspect of the community's cultural heritage. Oregon Heritage Tradition designation by the Oregon Heritage Commission would automatically meet this requirement.
- **HISTORIC CEMETERY DESIGNATION:** The community has at least one historic cemetery that has been officially designated as such by the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, and there are ongoing efforts to maintain and protect it.
- **CEMETERY AND GENEALOGICAL RECORDS:** The community has implemented a program to verify and make available cemetery and genealogical records to the public in written or electronic form for use in historic and genealogy research.
- **AWARD RECOGNITION:** A project, person, or organization in the community has received a state or national award for achievement in some aspect of heritage within the past decade. OHC's Heritage Excellence Award would qualify under this category.
- **OTHER HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENTS:** The community has implemented other programs or projects that do not fit previously listed criteria but that demonstrate a sustained and noteworthy commitment to the preservation and interpretation of the community's heritage.