

OREGON HERITAGE COMMISSION
Approved Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2009
Travel Oregon Headquarters
670 Hawthorne St. NE, Suite 240, Salem OR

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Don Ivy, E. John Rampukis, Layne Sawyer, Andrea Morgan, Jan Mitchell, Charlotte Fugate (by phone), Jim Scheppke, Carole Astley, Jon Tullis, E. John Rumpakis, Carol Michael, George Kramer, Carol Michael., Roger Roper.

STAFF: Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill, Kimarie Lamb

Call to order and Introductions

The meeting came to order at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Kramer gave the opening introductions and Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome of New Member

Michael was welcomed as the newest Commission member.

Welcome by Travel Oregon:

Scott West with Travel Oregon welcomed the Commission and attendees. Travel Oregon is bringing tourism and hospitality leaders together on issues that affect them. There are convergence of issues affecting tourism and heritage.

Approval of Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the agenda. **Mitchell motion to approve the agenda, Ivy seconded. Approved unanimously.**

Approval of November 10 minutes

There were no changes or modifications to the meeting minutes. **Ivy motion to approve the minutes, Rumpakis seconded. Approved unanimously.**

Public Comments

Kyleen Stone, Assistant Director for OPRD Recreation Programs and Planning and Interim Manager of the Oregon State Fair, proposed designating the Fair as an Oregon Heritage Event. This designation could be announced during a final sesquicentennial Birthday Party at this year's State Fair. Similar designations could be made for the Pendleton Roundup, the Rose Parade, the Shakespearean Festival, and other longtime events that are part of Oregon's heritage. Designations would enable Travel Oregon a way to promote premier events in the state. Connie Bradley, the Marketing Manager at the State Fair, gave a presentation and handouts on the history of the Oregon State Fair, what it has meant to Oregon.

The Commission discussed what it might take to consider a designation: very clear and quantitative criteria, addressing signage, possibly a sub-committee to oversee the program, getting ODOT involved, understanding how Tourism would tie in, has a statewide draw. A sub-committee of

Mitchell, Astley and Tullis to work alongside Stone, Bradley and Jansson to further develop the Oregon Heritage Event designation.

Commissioner Reports

Central Cascades GeoTourism Map Project

Tullis said a project advisory council that involves National Geographic are producing a map of the Central Cascades. Forums are encouraging people to nominate GeoTourism Assets (including heritage sites) which will be put on this map. There are 150 places expected to be nominated and put onto the map. He encouraged everyone to look at the website.

OTIC Heritage Map

Tullis noted the Oregon Travel Information is producing an interactive Heritage Map that shows these Heritage Trees and Markers. A Travel Information Council will be contacted to present information about it for the Commission's next meeting.

Information:

Sesquicentennial Update

Jansson noted the many sesquicentennial activities taking place in Salem today and tomorrow. He said he has heard concerns that Oregon 150 has been more of a marketing vehicle than the original concept of creating meaningful experiences for Oregonians. Commissioners said the sesquicentennial has raised awareness of Oregon heritage, that media attention and coverage has been good for Oregon 150, that coverage in smaller towns has been weaker, and that given the state's economic situation things are working out just fine.

Northwest History and Heritage Extravaganza

Jansson gave an overview of the conference and what it will entail. The April 17 keynote speaker will be Scott Momaday who is sponsored with funds donated to the Oregon Cultural Trust. The tribal welcoming ceremony is on April 16. The forecast of attendance is about 450-600 people. Gill said balancing the needs of the partners and what the conference typically needs to provide has been interesting but with looking at things differently and finding a new way to approach it will result in a really good conference.

Jansson said a conference is not planned for 2010 and may consider looking at perhaps an every-other-year conference. In the opposite years, the idea is to do a one-day training sessions around the state with the same content. It was suggested to make an announcement at the Extravaganza about future conference plans.

Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

The Awards Committee meets on Wednesday. There have been 18 which is a record number, said Jansson. There could be an awards dinner to tie in with technical training.

OPRD Update

Every year OPRD publishes a State Parks Guide that promotes the features of the parks. This year, as part of the Sesquicentennial there's a special 8-page supplement about heritage sties in Oregon. Roper said another project at Champoege Sate Park will celebrate the opening of a new interpretive

exhibit. Kramer said the Commission should voice its appreciation and commendation to the individual of the Department and the Parks Commission for featuring heritage prominently. **Rumpakis made a motion to commend OPRD and the Parks Commission for the current edition of the Oregon States Parks Guide and the work that went into its worthwhile publication for the citizens of Oregon and its visitors. Mitchell second. Approved unanimously.**

Legislative Update

Roper said heritage-related bills in the Legislature include Senate Bill 192 for the special assessment program for historic property, House Bill 2087 that relates to fees for nonprofit organizations, Senate Bill 217 for vandals of archaeological sites, and the transfer of the Main Street Program to the State Historic Preservation Office. There is also a CHAMP II package this year related to cultural programs.

Some commissioners said they would to see OPRD use more muscle to get heritage initiatives adopted. The key is to have things ready to present to the Department when it begins preparations for the next Legislative session. Commissioners said they would like to discuss potential 2011 Legislative requests at the July meeting. A suggestion was made to show the Commission's grant program successes to the Parks Commission.

Grants Project Spotlight

Jansson showed photographs from a grant-funded photo scanning project funded with both a Museum Grant and a Heritage Grant by the Lane County Historical Society.

Old Business

Astley updated the Commission on plans to present a Heritage Tourism Award at the Governor's Tourism Conference.

New Business

Review of Commissioner job description

Commissioners reviewed their job descriptions and talked about building the profile of the Commission by being more active in their regions. Suggestions for building the Commission profile and making service more substantive included re-gifting the winners of the Excellence Award in each Commissioner's region; more Commissioner meeting and social time to connect; coordinating times to connect outside of meetings; finding ways to make what you do worth the commitment; and revisiting and improving upon the Commission mission. It was also noted that the Department of Education, which by statute is a part of the Commission, had been omitted in the job description.

Jansson noted the upcoming review of the Oregon Heritage Plan also will provide the opportunity for the Commission to look at what they do. The topic of commissioner job description and creating those activities can be discussed further at the Commission's July meeting.

Heritage Cities

Roper noted that a year ago he provided the Commission a handout of the "Idaho Heritage City Program." He noted this is one activity that the commissioners could help develop in Oregon.

Commissioners noted they could approach the League of Oregon Cities or the Secretary of State for a partnership on this. Roper will check into this and get more information from Idaho before the July meeting.

Meeting Schedule for 2009

Jansson noted future meeting dates if April 16 at the Northwest History and Heritage Extravaganza; July 27 in central or eastern Oregon (or by phone), and November 2.

Commissioner Reports & Comments

Morgan said the Department of Education has begun reviewing the Social Sciences Standards which includes history, geography, and economics and are looking for comments. The Oregon Geographic Alliance is presenting the Oregon Student Atlas to the State of Oregon as a birthday gift. The Oregon Council for the Social Studies is hosting its spring conference on Oregon's First Americans at Spirit Mountain.

Tullis reported that he expects passage of the Lewis and Clark Wilderness bill for 157,000 acres of new wilderness area. The Clackamas County Tourism Development Council has developed Tele-Tales. It enables people to visit 17 sites, dial a phone number, and listen to a 60-second history of the site. Clackamas Heritage Partners is talking about a National Heritage Area.

Sawyer said the Oregon constitution is on display Feb. 13-14 at the Capitol. Also the Oregon Blue Book internet version is now online. There is a color section on the Sesquicentennial Farms with pictures submitted from the families. The hard copy edition comes out in late March.

Mitchell said the Lower Columbia Preservation Society was bequeathed four apartment buildings. It is also working with Clatsop Community College to build a preservation program within the college. There will be Astoria's Fisher Poet's gathering held at art galleries and brew pubs throughout the Astoria area in two weeks.

Ivy announced the Coos County "Kids to Museum" project -- which reaches about 700 4th-grade students to learn about South Coast Native American history and culture. This is the fourth year of the project, a collaboration between the Coquille Tribe, Confederated Coos Tribes, Coos Historical & Maritime Museum, and the Coos County Indian Education Program. Kids to Museum won an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award last year. Ivy also announced The Northwest Anthropological Conference is April 9-11 at the Agate Beach Hotel in Newport. NWAC is a mix of academic and professional research papers and presenters dealing with sometimes abstract and arcane subjects, but it is the largest annual gathering of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

Ivy also asked commissioners to think about their role in providing a context for who a Native Oregonian is and about to think about historic contexts that might be lost or overlooked during the Oregon 150 celebration. When talking about heritage things, it's important to understand that heritage to some people might be something that is growing (i.e. pioneer orchards, homestead flowers) in the front yard or elsewhere in a town or elsewhere that evokes in people feelings of commonality that link us all together.

Scheppke said the State Library released an Oregon 150 book list that can be downloaded from its website. There's been great response from the community and the media. The Oregon Digital Newspaper Project is underway at the University of Oregon to digitize all 19th century Oregon newspapers and make it available on the web. The Heritage Commission and SHPO are working to use their Cultural Trust funds for a grant to support of the project. The UO is also applying for an NEH Grant.

Kramer said two 1860's buildings have been lost in Phoenix OR. The Jackson County Library is has created with the Southern Oregon Historical Society a series of 12 lectures to happen on the 1st Wednesday of the month in Medford and the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ashland.

Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.