

Oregon Heritage Commission
June 9, 2010
Teleconference
Public listening room in Room 147, North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. NE, Salem
Approved Minutes

Commissioners Present by Telephone: Carole Astley, Charlotte Fugate, Kimberly Jensen, George Kramer, David Lewis, Jan Mitchell, Andrea Morgan, Roger Roper, E. John Rumpakis, Layne Sawyer, Jim Scheppke, George Vogt, Irene Zenev.

Staff Present: Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill.

Kramer called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. It was noted there was not a quorum at that time so business could not be conducted.

Legislative Update:

Vogt said the latest state budget cutbacks had reduced the Oregon Historical Society appropriation by \$14,000 and the Cultural Trust marketing budget by \$50,000. There may be other rollbacks in the future.

Roper said lottery revenue has been more stable. He also noted the Legislative proposals: the housekeeping proposal to correct the name of the tourism agency in the statute and another to be able to fund the Main Street program. Vogt added that previous discussions to have OHS declared a state historic site now appear dead.

Kramer said it looks like we're running out of time to save OHS and that perhaps the Heritage Vitality Report could be useful. Vogt said getting the right people to figure out a solution is critical as OHS is likely to run out of operating funds by the end of 2011. Without OHS in existence, it will be harder to get a statewide solution, said Kramer. Commissioners talked about forming a multi-county or statewide heritage district. Vogt noted a statewide campaign could cost millions of dollars. He said legislative leadership is unanimously opposed to using Measure 66 lottery dollars for heritage.

With two voting Commissioners joining the meeting, Kramer noted there was now a quorum.

Heritage Vitality Report

Jansson said draft chapters will be posted on the Internet for commissioners to comment on. Questions for the second survey are now being developed. The survey will help identify the overall priority of issues. It also will identify the most effective methods of solving each issue.

He said the survey results will be tallied before the next Commission meeting in September, and report drafts revised accordingly. Draft recommendations will also be created. October will be set aside for public comments, with the Commission adopting a final report in November.

Museum Grant Committee

Jensen served on the committee that met this week to review the 29 proposals. She said committee members were the same as those that reviewed proposals last fall so there is continuity in the decisions this biennium. She said the trainings and work that Jansson and Gill have done with applicants showed as the projects were much better than previously. The Committee decided to lower the maximum amount given in order to spread limited grant money to one more museum. (The Committee's recommendations are attached.) Jansson noted a variety of size museums will receive grants.

Scheppke asked why another grant for software was approved for an individual organization when commissioners are interested in promoting collaboration. Jansson said that applicant had contacted neighboring heritage organizations in preparing its application.

Fugate made a motion to approve the committee's recommendations and thank the committee members for its work; Rumpakis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Reports and Comments:

Rumpakis wondered what is being done to get news media to cover heritage. He said he had attended an Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation event recently where the organization had raised \$1 million. It seemed newsworthy. Kramer said Southern Oregon news media seem to be clued in on the challenges at SOHS. Vogt said OHS is working with a public relations firm on its likely levy campaign in Multnomah County. That firm keeps asking OHS to be clear about what it wants. Perhaps that is the challenge for heritage. Jansson said the Heritage Vitality Report will hopefully bring clarity to what heritage wants. Kramer said this is likely to be a point of future discussion.

Adjourn:

Rumpakis moved at 2:29 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.