

OREGON HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2008
Architectural Heritage Center
701 SE Grand Ave., Portland OR

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

STAFF: Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill, Kimarie Lamb

Call to order and Introductions

Meeting came to order at 10:04 a.m. Chairman George Kramer gave the opening introductions and Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Cathy Galbraith, Director of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation, welcomed the Commission and staff to the Architectural Heritage Center. She gave a brief overview of the Heritage Center and its beginning.

Approval of Agenda

Rumpakis moved to approve the proposed agenda. Mitchell second. Approved unanimously.

Approval of August 4 minutes

Rumpakis moved to approve the draft minutes. Ivy second. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Information:

Oregon Cultural Trust: Director Christine D'Arcy thanked the Commission for its partnership in advancing the goals of the Cultural Trust. She said there is \$10 million in a permanent trust fund; \$6.7 million dispersed since 2002; fundraising is up by 20 percent; goal is to raise \$4.2 million before the year end of 2008; \$3.5 million was raised by the year end of 2007 but the current service level of budget cannot be sustained; and a proposal for an increase for the size of the Trust Board has been presented to the Legislature. There is increased giving, new donors at high levels, a steady number of non-profits who want to be associated with the Cultural Trust and requests for very large marketing materials going out.

Columbia Pacific National Heritage Area: Lewis and Clark National Historic Park superintendent David Syzmanski made a presentation on National Heritage Area business plans, program and proposal. Heritage Areas initially were given \$10 million for 15 years. Appropriation has increased and folks haven't been able to show what they've been doing with

those funds. He gave a brief presentation of the Columbia & Pacific National Heritage Area Proposal.

OPRD and Legislative Update: Roper talked about proposed changes in the historic properties tax assessment program's Task Force. The recommendation is a for property tax reduction instead of a property tax freeze. There is recommendation to relocate the Main Street program to the SHPO. The Department of Justice wants to have money to go after the looters of Archaeology sites. They envision getting donations to this fund from people who would rather pay and donate to a worthy cause instead of go to jail. The replenishing of properties will also go into that fund as well. There's been talk of a CHAMP II package, but nothing has been formalized.

Heritage Heroes: Roper said this program was triggered by a project in Springfield where burials were found during hospital construction. The bull dozer operator stopped when she noticed things coming up during digging. Calls were made, and the contractor, Peace Health, the UO and the State Historic Preservation Office resolved the issue rapidly. Gill presented a letter of commendation and certificate to the operator. There was good publicity for all. Another recognition was made during the fall for efforts by Mike Dryden at the Cloud Cap Inn on Mount Hood. Commissioners suggested several other ways to bring more attention to the Commission and to special heritage efforts in the state.

WORKING LUNCH

Grant program updates: Jansson presented visual reports on the Commission's grants with the Boardman Parks and Recreation District, the Deschutes County Historical Society, and the Sherman County Historical Society.

Northwest History and Heritage Extravaganza: Jansson said a contract has been made with the Holiday Inn at the Portland Airport for the conference site. There is a program committee which consists of representatives from the Pacific Northwest History Conference, the Northwest Archivists, the Northwest Oral History Association, the Oregon Historical Society, and the Heritage Conference. Keynote speakers are still trying to be nailed down. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has offered to organize the welcoming ceremony involving all the Tribes in the state taking place on Thursday. On Friday, a plenary panel of four people will talk about "What 1859 Oregon Means to Me".

Sesquicentennial update: Jansson noted the 150th anniversary is only a few months away. They have made pitch to League of Oregon Cities to each organize a Take Care of Oregon project. It has 60 partners now. Travel Oregon is working with Oregon 150 and there will be a Sesquicentennial section of its calendar.

Regional service update: Jansson said there are continuing challenges to strengthening this program. The Southern Oregon Historical Society lost its county funding and so is struggling to find a focus. Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute seems to have its regional service meeting low demands on it. Jansson said he will continue working on this and keep the Commission informed.

Old Business

Heritage Excellence Award: Jansson presented the draft of this year's awards nomination form. The only changes are dates and place of the giving out of the awards. Ivy moved to have the Commission approve the form. Mitchell second. Approved unanimously.

New Business

Pendleton Roundup Centennial Celebration: Jill Thorne has asked that the Commission declare this a statewide celebration of statewide significance. The information was included in the Commission's packet, along with a draft resolution. Ivy made a motion to issue a "Declaration of Statewide Significance of the 100th Birthday of the Pendleton Roundup." Fugate second. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Schedule for 2009: There was no objection to the schedule proposed by Jansson in his coordinator's report. Travel Oregon was suggested as possible site for next meeting.

Frank Branch Riley Oregon Heritage Tourism Award: Astley showed Commissioners a Tourism Award and asked where they thought it should be presented. The Governor's Tourism Conference was the consensus.

Commissioner Reports & Comments

Ivy commented on the Sesquicentennial. He initially was excited about it being a role of this Commission and it's unfortunate that the Commission, with a statutory coordination role, was not accommodated more with Oregon 150. To have the Oregon 150 committee and communities doing their own things is a contradiction to the Commission's purpose. He said he hopes this does not portend future budget issues for the Commission.

Kramer said that he thought the Commission would be well served to raise its profile. Given the Commission's track record and its success rate with grantees, phenomenal things could have been done throughout the state for the sesquicentennial based on the track record of this Commission. He said the Commission needs to be more aggressive in asking for more funding because it has earned the right to play a larger role.

Rumpakis suggested a summary about the efforts at providing collections care in the state that was included in a grant application to the Institute for Museum and Library Services was important for the Commission to share. Kramer said the Commission should have staff produce a small booklet that describes the Commission grants and their successes and shows the importance and significance of heritage in the state.

Adjourn

Ivy made the motion to adjourn. Fugate seconded. Approved unanimously at 1:35 p.m. Some Commissioners then toured the Architectural Heritage Center with Galbraith.