

**Oregon Heritage Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
2 November 2009, 1:30 p.m.  
Moreland Auditorium  
Benton County Historical Museum, Philomath**

**Commissioners Present:** David Lewis, E. John Rumpakis, Carol Michael, Andrea Morgan, Layne Sawyer, Irene Zenev, George Kramer.

**Staff:** Kuri Gill, Kyle Jansson

**Public:** JoAnne Trow, Hong Wolfe, Jay Dixon, Cleo Rumpakis.

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Kramer brought the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves. Benton County Commissioner Jay Dixon welcomed commissioners and talked about some of the county's historic resources.

**Approval of agenda.**

Rumpakis made a motion to approved the agenda. Lewis second. Approved unanimously..

**Public comments:**

Walter Frankel, a board member of the Oregon Cultural Trust, talked about how the organization operates and how it distributes funds.

**Commissioner Reports and Comments:**

Zenev introduced Hong Wolfe and JoAnne Trow, both BCHS board members.

Sawyer talked about database to document people who lived in Oregon prior to statehood. It is an Archives sesquicentennial project and will soon be online.

Rumpakis gave information about cultural events and organizations, including the Lang Syne Society, a textiles of Greece workshop showing will be next spring, Festa Italiana, Ancient Mosaics, Cappella Romana, and Cyprus.

Lewis reported about October's National Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference in Portland; a traveling exhibit for the Oregon tribes; and a new book on Oregon tribes seeking recognition and restoration by David Beck. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde is also editing an upcoming issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly.

Morgan thanked Jansson and Sawyer for helping with Social Studies curriculum standards work sessions. History standards will be done in the near future. Morgan invited commissioners to attend the next session.

Kramer noted with sadness that Reeve Hennion, a 2009 Heritage Excellence award winner, died last month.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Zenev noted she was present at the meeting. Rumpakis moved to approve as corrected. Zenev second. Approved unanimously.

### **Oregon Heritage Grants**

Jansson described the selection process and the review committee's recommendations of nineteen grants totaling \$200,000.

Rumpakis made a motion to approve the recommended grants for the Lane Historical Society and Museum, Lord and Schryver Conservancy, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Wallowa Land Trust, the Friends of the Joseph Branch (for the Maxville project), the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum, the Klamath County Museums, the Clatsop County Historical Society, the Cannon Beach Historical Society, the Friends of Sumpter Valley Dredge, the High Desert Museum, the Lake County Library District, the Yamhill County Historical Society, Oregon Public Broadcasting, the Eastern Oregon University Foundation, and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Michael seconded. Approved unanimously.

Zenev declared a conflict of interest on the recommendation for the Benton County Historical Society grant. Michael made a motion to approve a grant to the Benton County Historical Society. Rumpakis second. Approved 4-0. Zenev did not vote.

Lewis declared a conflict of interest on the recommendation for the Northwest History Network and Oregon Council of Teachers of English grants. Zenev made a motion to approve grants to the Northwest History Network and the Oregon Council of Teachers of English. Michael second. Approved 4-0. Lewis did not vote.

Kramer declared a conflict of interest on the recommendation for the City of Jacksonville grant. In the absence of the vice chair, Lewis now presided for the meeting. Zenev made a motion to approve the grant to the City of Jacksonville. Michael seconded. Approved 4-0. Kramer did not vote.

Kramer returned to the chair's role as presiding officer. He said he would like staff to do a news release about the grant awards and the unmet grant requests.

Rumpakis praised Jansson for his handling of the review committee. Kramer praised the entire committee for its work.

### **Heritage Excellence Awards Criteria:**

Jansson said that after three years of running the program, he and Heritage Programs Division staff had determined that some modifications to the criteria were needed to keep it smoothly running. In particular, staff was recommending language that discusses new nominations for previous award winners and that is clearer about the qualities wanted for project awards.

Commissioners discussed the proposal. Michael made a motion to approve the revised criteria, with the word “super” eliminated. Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Commissioners took a brief break for 10 minutes.

### **White Paper Research Project**

Following up on the Commission’s request at its July meeting in Prineville, Jansson described the staff decision to hire a temporary staff member for the project instead of contracting.

Jansson described four significant issues that he felt were impacting the status of Oregon heritage. He had presented them at an Oregon Cultural Trust board meeting. The four are: 1) changes in governmental funding. 2) changes in youth and adult education practices 3) a changing of generations and generational interests 4) the lack of relevance and community engagement by many heritage organizations.

Gill said that in her experience community engagement is lacking in many places. Zenev described sesquicentennial and art exhibits the Benton County museum had created in which it promotes itself as the keeper of the community’s material culture. Lewis said compelling storytelling is critical for heritage. Rumpakis said marketing information and training could be provided to organizations. Kramer said some organization haven’t changed 1959 model museum concept despite changes in viability of the concept and the community. Some people perceive them as brown, boring and dusty. Zenev said the Benton County museum hosts community group activities and meetings. Morgan said heritage organizations should make young people feel welcome.

Kramer said he talked with Rep. Buckley about white paper process. It needs discussion on best ways to provide services and to identify key issues. Lewis suggested coordinating with the Envisioning Oregon and its information.

### **Draft Action Plan 2009-2011**

Jansson had sent the Commission prior to the meeting three key strategies for Commission during 2009-11. Commissioner Jim Scheppke responded with the following (which modified the second strategy)”

1. Compile quantitative and qualitative information about the current status of heritage and heritage organizations.
2. Using the information and other recommendations from key stakeholders, develop a long range strategy for preserving Oregon’s endangered heritage resources to present to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and the Governor.
3. Strengthen delivery of technical information to heritage organizations across the state.

Commissioners discussed the elements. They requested that Jansson present an implementation plan for the next meeting. Rumpakis moved to adopt the three strategies as proposed by Scheppke. Zenev seconded. Approved unanimously.

## **Heritage Conferences**

Gill discussed the planning that has taken place for the 2010 regional heritage conferences in Oregon City, LaGrande and Jacksonville, as well as the 2011 conference in Astoria, including their formats.

## **Adjourn**

Zenev made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.