

Minutes
Oregon Heritage Commission
November 5, 2007
Douglas County Museum, 123 Museum Drive, Roseburg

Present: Carole Astley (by phone), Donald Ivy, Jan Mitchell, Roger Roper, E. John Rumpakis, Layne Sawyer, Jim Scheppke, Jill Thorne (by phone), George Vogt, Irene Zenev, Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill, Roger Roper.

Visitors: Gardner Chappel, Douglas County Museum; M.J. Koreiva, Oregon Museums Association; Marilyn Kittelman, Douglas County Commissioner; Jeff Lehrbach, Douglas County Planning Department; Carol Pelton, Oregon Cultural Trust; Cleo Rumpakis; Norm Smith, Ford Family Foundation.

Meeting was called to order by Donald Ivy at 9:11 a.m. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Jansson announced that Governor Kulongoski has appointed Jon Tullis, the public affairs director at Timberline Lodge, as the newest commission member. Without a quorum at this point of the meeting, the Commission postponed approval of the agenda and minutes until later in the meeting when there would be.

Welcomes and Public Comments:

Norm Smith talked about at the Ford Family Foundation and its primary efforts of scholarships, rural community building, and grants. Roper said the new Main Street program seemed to be more focused, but that it shared some of the same goals. Smith said they are looking at linkages with it.

Marilyn Kittleman of Douglas County said she was a fifth generation Oregonian. She reviewed the history of the Oregon and California lands act of 1937, which is over half of the land base of the county. People in the 18 O&C counties have not only lost jobs due to the funding reductions, but also self-respect. Even increasing the amount of business can't overcome the huge loss of O&C funds. The county is considering a lawsuit with other counties to resolve the issue.

Gardner Chappel said the Douglas County Museum was built in 1969 and has been the beneficiary of the O&C funds. It combines both natural and cultural history.

Carol Pelton of the Oregon Cultural Trust said this was her eighth day as Trust manager. The Trust has a \$3.25 million goal for the year. Donations have been arrived at twice the previous year's level.

MJ Koreiva, also a 5th generation Oregonian, talked about the new marketing effort of the Oregon Museums Association, including a guidebook, website and T-shirts. She noted that the OMA/OHC survey last year showed that 3.4 million people visited Oregon museums last year.

Old Business:

Historic Properties Inventory additions: Jansson reported that he had been asked by the Capitol if it would be able to add a historic wooden sign announcing office hours by Governor McCall to the inventory. He then was asked about adding other items to the inventory in order that the Capitol could keep track of the items. He noted that the Commission has not added items to the inventory nor authorized it. He also said it is possible that the Capitol would be doing the initial recording, which would not significantly increase the Commission's staff workload. Mitchell motion to add items to the inventory, Zenev second. Commission approved 5-0.

County history series: Jansson talked briefly about the bibliographic research done by Ian Johnson and Cara Kaser of the state's National Register program related to county histories, and that they had found virtually no academically rigorous county histories done during the past 50 years. Roper said it was an idea he would like to see come alive. Ivy said someone has to be inspired to make that happen and how does the OHC do that? Thorne said to use the sesquicentennial as the tool and to have the Oregon 150 development director shop the idea to funders. Schepke noted the current efforts to create an Oregon Encyclopedia of History and Culture, and that county histories could be a part of it. Mitchell said the OHC could possibly seek grant moneys to give to counties to do this. Vogt noted that the state history series that was part of the 1976 US bicentennial took 5-10 years of planning, research and prodding to happen, and that it had uneven quality. Roper said a county history series in Utah took 5-7 years to develop. Ivy said to put this item on the next agenda, and that commissioners should think about potential models and virtuality of it. Thorne said the project would need to be a grassroots-up effort.

The Commission then took a 10-minute recess.

New Business:

Heritage Grant Awards: Jansson reported 42 applications had been received and reviewed by a six-member grant review committee that met Oct. 30. Funding requests totaled about \$450,000, and the OHC had about \$204,000 to give out. The committee was recommending full funding of 20 of the applications. Rumpakis moved the review committee's recommendations be adopted. Mitchell seconded. Mitchell served on the committee and said it would have liked to have funded more. The application ranking was done by consensus and that those funded were closest to the goals and criteria established by the OHC. Thorne asked how many were related to the sesquicentennial. Jansson said six of the approved applications have direct stated ties to the sesquicentennial. Commission voted 4-0 in favor of the motion to approve, with Ivy abstaining.

Approval of Minutes: With a Commission quorum in place, Ivy asked for a motion on the minutes of the Aug. 6 meeting. Mitchell moved they be approved, Rumpakis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Real estate professional training: Rumpakis reviewed the continuing education requirements for real estate licensees in the state, and recommended that Commission offer the Oregon Real Estate Division assist with educational curriculum courses in preservation and revitalization. Roper said people in the State Historic Preservation Office have put together a PowerPoint that could be used, and the Bosco-Milligan Foundation might also be able to do this. Thorne said this kind of training was important to Pendleton and other historic resources. Rumpakis made a motion to approve sending of a letter by the Commission to the Real Estate Division as outlined in his written information, and he will work with Roper and Jansson in doing so. Mitchell second. Approved 5-0.

Digitized Colorado Historic Newspapers: Schepcke made a presentation using PowerPoint about an online digitized newspaper project of the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Historical Society. It started with 1,200 pages of two newspapers in 1859. It was launched with \$370,000 in LSTA and IMLS grants for 96,000 pages. It has since received more than \$425,000 in donations, with people able to contribute \$1.25 to get a page digitized. He noted Utah also has had a digitized newspaper project. Commissioners said they liked the project's potential for Oregon. Schepcke said he planned to invite key people to a Dec. 3 summit to discuss the possibility. Roper said he supports the idea and in finding funding for it, but noted some of the obstacles for getting it may be the same ones the Oregon Historical Society faced in getting operations funding in the most recent legislative session.

2008 Meeting Schedule: Commissioners were generally favorable to the meeting dates proposed by Jansson in his written report.

Information:

Oregon 150: Jansson generally reviewed the Oregon 150 developments, including hiring a new director, the Oregon Stories project, and Take Care of Oregon Day. Roper said individual state parks and headquarters will be undertaking activities. Ivy said Sue Schaeffer of the Cow Creek had been at the center of the conversation amongst Western Oregon tribes. Sawyer said the State Archives has an exhibit in its gallery and online on the 1857 Oregon Constitutional Convention.

2008 Heritage Conference: Sporting a Eugene 2008 hat, Jansson said several planning meetings have already taken place and that planning is well ahead of previous years. He gave commissioners flyers they can use to invite others to attend the conference.

Oregon Heritage Fellowships: Jansson said 18 applications have been received on a variety of topics, and that a committee will make a decision later in the week on them.

Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards: Jansson noted that the commissioners' packet contained last year's nomination form. He planned to use it again this year unless commissioners had serious concerns with it. He did not know how many applications would be received, but hoped that only 3-6 awards would be presented annually.

Heritage Districts and Commissioners: Jansson noted commissioners had asked at a previous meeting what they could do in regard to efforts to establish heritage districts. Relying on correspondence from OPRD legislative coordinator Jim Myron, Jansson said the commission can not take a position on a local issue. If individual commissioners want to be involved in local efforts, they can do it as local resident and not as "member, Oregon Heritage Commission."

Commissioner Reports

Sawyer said Archives Month activities at the City of Portland's Archives had a modest turnout. It featured 8mm and 16mm films.

Vogt said the Oregon Historical Society is participating in an international music and culture festival.

Zenev said the Benton County Historical Society is completing a \$2.6 million, 13,000-square-foot collections facility, and will begin moving the Horner collection to it in January.

Ivy said the Coquille Indian Tribe hosted the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries workshop and meeting last month, and is working again with the Coos Historical & Maritime Museum and the area's Indian education program on a continuing initiative.

Mitchell said the Clatsop County Historical Society and Astoria's bicentennial are looking for a half-time director. Also, a consultant is being hired to do the heritage area feasibility study.

Astley invited presentations at the Governor's Tourism Conference April 6-8 in Portland.

Ivy adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.