



Minutes

**all times are an estimate and items on the agenda may occur earlier or later*

Sunday, July 27, 2025

2pm – Tour of downtown St. Helens, starts at 251 Saint Helens Street

5:30 pm – Dinner, Crooked Creek Brewery, 343 S 1st St, St Helens

Monday, July 28, 2025

Business Meeting: 9:30 am

Commissioners Present: Rosemary Johnson, Kerry Savage, Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Libby Provost, Katee Withee, Larry Landis (HECC), Kerry Tymchuk (OHS), Kim Gorman (State Archives), Deb Vaughn (Travel Oregon), Ian Johnson (SHPO)

Staff Present: Katie Henry, Kuri Gill, Kim Spivey

Public Present: Kay Heflin, Ginger Savage

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) Approval of Agenda (**Action**)

Commissioner Savage motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Withee seconded, Commissioner Flanagan Battistella, Johnson, Provost, Withee, Savage voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

- c) Approval of May 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes (**Action**)

Commissioner Flanagan Battistella had notes on spelling errors and that she had requested to thank Travel Oregon; Katie Henry noted changes. Commissioner Provost motioned to approve minutes as amended; Commissioner Flanagan Battistella seconded. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella, Johnson, Provost, Withee, Savage voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

- d) Approval of May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes (**Action**)

Commissioner Savage motioned to approve minutes; Commissioner Provost seconded. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella, Johnson, Provost, Withee, Savage voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

2. Public Comment: No public comment was made.

3. Oregon Heritage Staff Update

- Kuri Gill provided updates on 2025 Legislative Session; OPRD's exemption from procurement processes. Special Assessment program. (Additional info about Special Assessment will be provided by Joy Sears in October.) Main Street grant funding did not get approved by legislation for 2027. Gill provided an update on SHPO's federal funding.
- Katie Henry provided an update on Heritage Commission positions and recruitment

- Katie Henry followed up on an item from the May meeting on the Commission's response to statewide partner strategic plans. State agencies often have a required public input component that the Commission can respond to either via the coordinator or the coordinator can work with an interested Commissioner on it. Non-state agency entities such as a nonprofit is not required to have a public input component but the Commission Coordinator can invite them to a meeting to present on it.
- Katie Henry presented the MentorCorps annual report.
- State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen provided an update on Northwest Digital Heritage in light of uncertainty of IMLS LSTA funding and exploring different funding streams to help support the project.
- Kerry Tymchuk provided an update on 250th events including funding for a small grant. Oregon Heritage staff is working OHS on grant logistics, more details to come.

4. Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon's Big Rethink

Claire Blaylock with [Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon](#) (CACO) provided an update to the commission on arts and culture funding from the 2025 legislative session. She also provided information on the Big Rethink that CACO will be doing involving meeting across the state with members of the arts and culture community to help determine priorities and messaging for the next legislative session. This is a follow up to the Big Think that CACO did in 2014. Katie Henry encouraged Commissioners to attend an event in their region if possible so as to make sure heritage interests are represented in the discussion.

5. Made by Us, Youth250 (11:00, Information & Discussion)

Chloe Roach, a member of the Made by Us Youth250 Bureau, presented to the Commission on the Youth250 initiatives in connecting Gen Z with history organizations in the planning of commemorative events for the 250th anniversary of the United States. [Made By Us](#) is a national coalition of museums and historic sites connecting young people to the country through civic engagement.

6. Oregon Heritage Conference Brainstorm (11:30)

Commissioners were provided with the opportunity to suggest topics for the [2026 Oregon Heritage Conference](#) content based on needs, challenges, and opportunities identified by heritage interests across the state that tie into the theme of *Stories, Culture, Place - Weaving Community Heritage*. Suggestions included responding to budget constraints by cutting costs, grant workshop, working across generations, continuity planning, and incorporating the 250th.

7. Commission Sub-Committee Business (11:50, Discussion):

- a) Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Funds Sub-Committee – Recommendations for FY26 OCT Partner Grant (**Action**)

Commissioner Savage moved to accept the recommendations for FY26 OCT Partner Grant as proposed; Commissioner Provost seconded. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella, Johnson, Provost, Withee, Savage voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Working Lunch - Commissioner Reports (12:20, Information & Discussion)

- Commissioner Johnson gave an update on Columbia Maritime Museum and the Goonies 40th anniversary event.
- Commissioner Savage gave an update on the museum in Fossil closing.
- Commissioner Provost gave an update on the Multnomah County Library addition to the historic 1912 building.

- Commissioner Flannagan Battistella gave an update on working with communities on heritage traditions and working with Butte Falls on amplifying events and connecting with tourism entities.
- Commissioner Withee gave an update on the Grant County libraries facing closure due to budget shortfalls
- Larry Landis gave an update on grants awarded to two Oregon universities – OSU and University of Oregon
- Kim Gorman (no update)
- Ian Johnson (no update)
- Deb Vaughn gave an update on Travel Oregon including the CEO retiring and competitive grants program

8. 2026 Oregon Heritage Plan – Engagement Plan (1:00pm, Information & Discussion)

Katie Henry went over the engagement plan for the 2026 Oregon Heritage Plan and discussed ideas for in person discussion sessions for established local networks/coalitions across the state.

9. Oregon Heritage Grants Annual Report (1:20, Information & Discussion)

Kuri Gill provided an overview of grants awarded across all of the [Heritage grant programs](#).

10. Columbia County Museum Association presentation & Rainier Museum Tour

Representatives from different heritage organizations in the region introduced themselves and described their site. Board members of the Rainier Museum provided a tour of the museum to Commissioners.

11. Meeting Adjourned 2:30pm

Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

- a) October 26-27, joint meeting with OHC, OCHC, HARC, SACHP– Canby
- b) January 26, 2026 – Virtual
- c) April 29-May 2, 2026 – Commission meeting & 2026 Oregon Heritage Conference, Woodburn

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