



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Commission

The Oregon Heritage Commission is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to champion resources, recognition, and funding for preserving and interpreting Oregon's past. Founded in 1995 by the Legislature, the Heritage Commission is comprised of nine gubernatorial appointments and nine ex-officio members. The Commission is designated in [ORS 358.570-595](#) as the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in Oregon.

### Commission Members:

Rosemary Johnson (Chair), Kerry Savage (Vice Chair), Maureen Flanagan-Battistella, Randall Melton, Libby Provost, Jamie Marroquin, Katee Withee.

### Advisory Members:

Chrissy Curran, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

**Monday, May 5, 2025**  
**Coburg City Council Chambers**  
**91136 N Willamette St, Coburg**  
**Concurrently held via Zoom**

### MINUTES

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**3:00 pm**

**Local tours**

Tour of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401

**Monday, May 5, 2025**

**9:00 am**

**Business Meeting**

**Members Present:** Rosemary Johnson (Chair), Maureen Flanagan-Battistella, Randall Melton, Libby Provost, Jamie Marroquin, Katee Withee. **Advisory members:** Ian Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Theresa Rea, Oregon State Archives;

**Staff Present:** Katie Henry, Commission Coordinator; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Manager; Mary Newcomb, Administrative Assistant;

**Public:** Megan Dompe, Coburg Mainstreet, Ellen Palmquist, Kearns and West Consultants.

**Meeting Notes**

Meeting brought to order at 9:01 am.

## 1. Commission Business

### a. Approval of Agenda (Action)

**ACTION: Commissioner Flanagan-Battistella noted the addition of agenda item 11b to discuss strategic plans. Commissioner Provost, moved to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Commissioner Melton seconded the motion. Chair Johnson, Commissioners Flanagan-Battistella, Melton, Provost, and Withee voted in favor. Commissioner Marroquin was not present at the time of the vote. Motion carries; 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.**

### b. Review of the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. (Action)

**ACTION: Commissioner Battistella, moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Provost seconded the motion. Chair Johnson, Commissioners Flanagan-Battistella, Melton, Provost, and Withee voted in favor. Commissioner Marroquin was not present at the time of the vote. Motion carries; 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.**

### c. Review of the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes. (Action)

**ACTION: Commissioner Melton, moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Provost seconded the motion. Chair Johnson, Commissioners Flanagan-Battistella, Melton, and Provost, voted in favor. Commissioner Withee abstained. Commissioner Marroquin was not present at the time of the vote. Motion carries; 4 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.**

## 2. Public Comment (Information)

- a. Chair Johnson called for public comment related to items not on the agenda.
  - i. JB Carney, Travel Lane County, spoke to the importance of track and field, and running to the community.
  - ii. Jeff Oliver, TrackTown USA, informed the Commission of several heritage related efforts regarding the Prefontaine Classic, and other notable athletes from the area. The Commission advised taking a look into getting the Oregon Heritage Tradition designation now that the Prefontaine is celebrating its fiftieth year.

## 3. Oregon Heritage Update (Information)

- a. Commission Coordinator, Katie Henry, informed the Commission of staffing and program updates.
  - i. The Oregon Heritage Summit took place and had solid attendance and great presentations.
  - ii. There are many funding shifts taking place at local, state and federal levels that are impacting libraries, museums, and historic preservation throughout Oregon.
- b. Kuri Gill, Grants and Outreach Manager, gave an update on current legislative events.

- i. Budget and revenue sources are under review to maintain a sustainable, service-based future.
- ii. One bill revolves around the Agency's ability to print materials on-site, another regarding the Special Assessment Tax program. Many bills would impact grant administration and are monitored. A housing bill that previously would impact historic properties has had a language change. The Oregon Main Street funding continues to move along.

**4. Oregon Museums Association Strategic Plan (Information)**

- a. Oregon Museums Association's Vice-President, Stacy Nalley, presented the Association's recently updated Strategic Plan.

**5. Lane County Covered Bridges (Information)**

- a. Members of the Lane County Parks Advisory Committee, Stephen Lawn, with the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, and Brett Henry, Lane County Parks Division Manager, presented on the covered bridges that Lane County is responsible for and challenges related to funding for maintenance.

**6. Commission Sub-Committee Business (Information)**

- a. Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Funds Sub-Committee - Call for sub-committee.
  - i. Commissioner Provost, Melton, and Chair Johnson volunteered to serve.
- b. Tribal Relationship Building Sub Committee - discussion about the Resolution draft related to the Commission's commitment towards building meaningful relationships with Oregon's Tribes. A final resolution will be presented for vote at an upcoming meeting.

**7. Cottage Grove Survey (Information)**

- a. Oregon Heritage/SHPO Survey Coordinator, Evan West, presented a recent survey done in Cottage Grove, as a part of the Disaster Resilience planning process.

**8. Oregon Heritage Programs in Lane County and Surrounding Region (Information)**

- a. Commission Coordinator, Katie Henry, provided an overview of regional engagement with Oregon Heritage programs, including grants, designations, awards, and more.

**9. Working Lunch & Tour (Information)**

- a. Coburg Main Street Director, Megan Dompe, provided an overview on downtown revitalization efforts followed by a tour of the Main Street.

**10. Commissioner Reports (Information)**

- a. Chair Johnson, Astoria; The new Maritime building is under construction. The library is at a temporary location during construction. Two large reports are underway; the disaster resiliency plan and historic preservation plan.
- b. Commissioner Flanagan-Battistella, Medford; Eagle Point Grange is 100 this year, the Grant Pass Courier is 140, and it's the 5-year anniversary of the Almedia and Open Chain fires. Jacksonville is opening a museum. The Applegate Historic Society is open for the first time in over 10 years. The Goldhill Historic Society is now open for 3 days per week. Commissioner is seeing that the impact of incremental increases in funding over the last 10 years has energized various organizations and made positive community impacts and cooperative projects possible.
- c. Commissioner Melton, Pendleton; A loss of federal funds has impacted the Tamástslíkt community already at the museum and library. The Pendleton Public Library is asking that the IMLS grant be honored.
- d. Commissioner Provost, Portland; Many cultural resource firms have lost contracts that have impacted small scale operations to nationwide efforts. Americans for the Arts has a national poll survey out called Impact of Federal Policies that aims to document the scale of losses.
- e. Commissioner Withee, Canyon City; Grant County Historical Museum is partnering with Oregon Black Pioneers for a presentation on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Archaeological Road Show is taking place June 28<sup>th</sup> in Burns. The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site has reduced its operations to three days per week from seven. Additional events have taken place throughout the region.
- f. Advisor Johnson, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; budget proposals from the Federal Government regarding SHPOs and THPOs was just released and will be closely monitored. OPRD is ending limited duration employees' positions. SHPO will be losing three limited duration employees; Heidi Shewchuk, who supports the certified archaeologists, Oregon Archaeological Records Remote Access (OARRA), permits program and projects. Kirsten Lopez, Compliance Review Archaeologist. Josh Henderson, Archaeology Survey & Inventory Coordinator, will be kept on through the end of the calendar year, at which time Koren Tippet, who has been working as an OPRD Liaison, will return to that position. Much of the work these limited duration employees do simply will not be able to be made up and will result in a reduction of capacity.  
Reviewing the practices of the compliance program.
- g. Advisor Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Updates can be found online at <https://www.oregon.gov/library/Pages/Updates.aspx>. The State of Oregon is part of a multistate lawsuit regarding the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) funding cuts for the State Library, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Northwest Digital Heritage is anticipating facing staffing shortages as a result of federal funding cuts.

- h. Advisor Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; LSTA funds have been awarded to two community colleges, but other multiorganizational LSTA funded projects are no longer anticipating receiving funds. The AmeriCorp grant has received a termination notice for its \$4 million grant, but a lawsuit has been filed. The Oregon Folks Life Network has had an NEA grant rescinded this last Friday, but it's not yet clear what the impact is. Oregon State University's (OSU), *ADVANCE Journal* has had a \$900,000 grant rescinded, making the future of the project uncertain. Many other higher education institutions and programs are in similar states of uncertainty and financial impact. The OSU special collections and archives research center recently won an award for its reparative description work. The University of Oregon has announced the renaming of a residence hall after the Yasuis family.
- i. Advisor Rae, Oregon State Archives; The final phase of shelving has been completed. Now the transfer of possibly thousands of boxes from the record center to the shelves has begun. Over 11,000 records from the State Hospital female patient case files have been digitized and made available through records request. The new Blue Book is out.

#### **11. 2026 Oregon Heritage Plan Update (Information)**

- a. Kearns and West Consultant presented to the Commission the timeline and process for the update to the Oregon Heritage Plan. This process is funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Grant the Oregon Heritage Commission receives as one of the five statewide partners of the Oregon Cultural Trust.
  - i. Discussion followed about what the next steps are and how Commissioners and Advisory members can engage with this and subsequently the community.
- b. Commissioner Battistella, brought to the attention of the Commission that Travel Oregon's strategic plans for 2025-2027 comment period ends in a few days and does not include much about history. Commissioner Battistella is wondering how the Commission can more formally contribute to other strategic plans of partner agencies, what can be contributed to the Travel Oregon strategic plan, and what active roll can be taken as a commission, commissioner, or individual to insert heritage into relevant community organizations at large.
  - i. Coordinator Henry advised that while some involvement of other's strategic plans is done, how the OHC is invited to be involved varies, but that Commissioners are always able to contribute as individuals. In this time sensitive case, Coordinator Henry will reach out to Advisor Woodward. The result of that discussion and determining which organizations the Commission would like to engage on this with will be revisited at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.**

#### **Commission Planning Calendar (Information)**

- a. May 27 – Virtual (Museum Grant Approval)
- b. July 27-28 – tentatively, St. Helens
- c. October 26-27, joint meeting with Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, Historic Assessment Review Committee, State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation – Canby
- d. January 26, 2026 - Virtual