

Oregon Heritage Commission
January 13, 2020 Meeting-- MINUTES
Best Western Conference Room
735 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR

Commissioners: Matias Trejo de Dios, Jennifer Patterson, Rosemary Johnson, Anne LeVant Prah, Kimberly Moreland, Chrissy Curran, Chelsea Rose (phone), Laura Ferguson (phone), Todd Kepple (phone), Larry Landis (phone), Layne Saweyer (phone), Amit Kobrowksi (phone)

Staff: Beth Dehn, Kuri Gill

Public: Janice Crane, Cascade Locks Historical Museum

1. Call to Order (9:00 a.m.) Chelsea Rose

2. Introductions All

3. Approval of Agenda All

Moreland moved to approve the agenda. LeVant Prah seconded; approved.

4. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2019 Chelsea Rose

Johnson moved to approve the agenda. Trejo de Dios seconded; approved.

5. Public Comments

Janice Crane, executive director of Cascade Locks Historical Museum, thanked the Commission for coming to Cascade Locks and visiting the museum on Sunday.

6. Oregon Heritage Traditions Beth Dehn & Committee

The Tradition Committee met on January 7 to review the Portland Rose Society's application for their spring show. Dehn presented the application, with comments from the committee. The Spring show is a 131-year-old tradition that has taken no breaks. It was important in planting roots for what would become the Portland Rose Festival. Today the Portland Rose Show holds an annual show at the Lloyd Center with open to entry to any member of the public who grows roses outdoors. The public is invited to view the process and interact with the judges and volunteers.

Commissioners were impressed with the historic aspects of the event, but felt the lack of documented statistics about visitation numbers, demographics, and public participation weakened the application. With input from the Tradition Committee, the Commission determined not to designate the Portland Rose Show a Heritage Tradition with the information at hand. Rather, the Commission agreed to offer the Show the option of using the Rose Festival's logo if they are an event that contributes to the Festival, or re-applying with increased documentation of how the Show contributes to heritage tourism.

Follow-up: Dehn will communicate with the Portland Rose Show and offer ideas on how to document attendance statistics.

7. State Library of Oregon Strategic Planning

Jennifer Patterson

Patterson presented a draft of the State Library's vision, mission and values, and the four strategic focus areas. This is a three-year plan that the board will approve in March. As key stakeholders, Patterson asked for Commission comments and feedback and explained that in the past the Commission and Library have overlapped on digitization efforts and grants. Curran noted that public libraries are often historic assets. Moreland thanked Patterson for the presentation and shared her challenge in finding inclusive information on the website. Dehn noted that Commission's statute specifically names the Library as part of their coordinating group. It might be good to record that reciprocally in the Library's plan. Gill noted that she was glad to see achievable goals included in the plan. She commended the Library's customer service as some of the best of any agency. Gill and Dehn also see strong overlap in working with the Library on the goal of demonstrating value. Trejo de Dios asked if the board had discussed language accessibility. Patterson thanked the Commission for their feedback and said she would take it back to the board.

8. Clackamas County Heritage Council Presentation

Jennifer Burns

Burns presented on Clackamas County's past two years of work seeking collaborative funding for its heritage organizations. She presented details on the History Hub & Heritage District plans. The Clackamas County Heritage Council will conduct a formal vote at their next meeting on how to proceed with funding options. Commissioners asked about the pros and cons of including the County Fair in the heritage district, the reaction of heritage groups to the plan. Kepple noted a potential oddity found in ORS358 and Rose noted that Clackamas County's data collection and analysis was very complete. The Commission commended Clackamas County for recognizing the value of its heritage assets and taking steps for long-term funding and look forward to updates on the actions the heritage groups decide to take.

9. Heritage Conference Updates

Beth Dehn

Dehn announced the keynote speakers for the 2020 Heritage Conference and shared details about the workshops and sessions still in the planning phase. Registration for the conference will open at the end of February. Dehn announced the Excellence Award review committee and reminded the Commission Excellence Award nominations are due at the end of January. Commissioners will receive more information about their role at the conference in the coming months.

10. Heritage Grant Rulemaking History & Discussion

Kuri Gill

Gill shared the history of the Oregon Heritage Grant and facilitated discussion about potential rule changes to the grant. Gill explained that Museum Grant used to be noncompetitive and about 25 museums would apply for equal portions of the original 50K grant budget. This funding wasn't sufficient to drive change at all 25 organizations. In 2005, the Heritage Commission did an overhaul of the rules to make the grant competitive and provide higher awards to fewer institutions. In 2015, the Commission went into rulemaking for both the Museum and Heritage Grants. At this time the decision was made to not include schools and religious organizations. Gill was not able to find documentation of why those rules were put in place. She believes the goal was to get federal and state funding to lower-capacity nonprofits. Gill also noted that

schools and religious institutions can access the funds if they partner with a museum or other nonprofit like a PTA.

Commissioners discussed this history. Moreland noted that many religious organizations are involved in non-religious activities such as the First Baptist Church in Portland, who want to develop a museum. Moreland suggested that other funders like Proper Portland fund non-religious activities of religious organizations like social services. She also noted communities of color may have limited access to partnership opportunities. LeVant Prah commented that the current rules create a check and balance, and that collaborating with a nonprofit is the check. Curran suggested looking at the National Register's rules for religious properties for guidance and considering other c3 designations. Trejo de Dios noted that Salem Cultural Tourism Grant chose to remove 501c3 from their rules. Currently the Museum Grant only requires an organization to have articles of incorporation. Kepple noted that historic buildings and religious institutions often hold community records rural towns.

Gill wrapped-up the discussion by noting that she was contacted by four schools and religious organizations in the last cycle and none of them applied.

Follow up: The Commission agreed to reconvene a more detailed discussion at a future meeting to determine if 2B should be modified or left as is. Gill encouraged commissioners to consider this potential change carefully as it will significantly increase competition for the grant and likely require public comment. Should the Commission decide to make a change, a committee will need to develop draft language.

11. Eagle Creek Fire- Disaster Response Presentation

Chris Donnermeyer

Donnermeyer, Heritage Program Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, presented a review of the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, the work of resource advisors protecting cultural resources at risk, and the work of the Burned Area Response Team.

12. Heritage Plan Update

Beth Dehn

Dehn reported that staff took the Commission's feedback from the October meeting and created an outline for the final documents of the Heritage Plan. This includes, 1) the Plan that was approved by the Commission, 2) an insert that will explain why and how to participate in the plan, give mini a story to contextualize each goal, and provide a list of ways to work toward the goal, 3) talking points for boards to answer some of the questions that might arise when an organization is considering the plan, and 4) an evaluation document that will live online and explain the methodology of how outcomes in the plan will be evaluated.

Dehn then shared background on the Value of History Statement that was created by history professionals in national work groups. The goal of the statement is to promote shared language, tools and strategies for sharing the relevance of history. Commissioners agreed that endorsing the Statement supports the work of the Sharing the Value of Heritage Toolkit and the 2020 Heritage Plan.

Levant Prah moved for the Oregon Heritage Commission to endorse the Value of History Statement. Johnson seconded, unanimously approved.

13. Commissioner Field Work Reports

All

Rose reminded the Commission that field work reports are a chance for commissioners to be connectors in their region and share trends, concerns, and issues with the Commission in addition to institutional updates.

Rose: Shared turnover at the Southern Oregon Historical Society and is working with them on grant funding.

Curran: Noted that the SHPO is preparing for the 2021 legislative session. They are also conducting a process for rulemaking for the National Register program that will fill gaps in the federal guidelines that aren't law. A rules advisory committee is formed and will meet 2-4 times to advise staff on rules.

Moreland: Discussed the City of Portland is working on an African American Multiple Property Designation, which will be considered at the SACHP meeting in February. She also reported that Oregon Black Pioneers worked with the Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Eugene on adapting the Racing for Change exhibit to their area. The organization is also receiving many requests for speakers for Black History Month.

LeVant Prah: Shared that she is mentoring heritage groups in Portland's Old Town and China Town, including the Nikkei Endowment and the Chinatown Museum. She also meets with a collections care group every other month to tour each other's facilities in the metro area and discuss exhibit installation.

Johnson: Announced that the Nordic Heritage Park in Astoria was recently turned down for a major grant because the City was not involved enough. The group is at ¾ of its fundraising goal. Clatsop County is also working on its Hazard Mitigation Plan and wants to include heritage issues. Also, the National Park Service recently completed an archaeological dig on 3 sites in the Astoria area and two sites are eligible for landmark status.

Patterson: Conceded her time for her report earlier in the agenda.

Trejo de Dios: Announced the Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana is progressing on the publication of their research book on the origins of Oregon and have secured an epilogue from Dr. David Lewis. Additionally, Trejo de Dios presented the Commission and the State Library with the 2nd anthology of Oregonian poetry in Spanish.

Ferguson: Shared that High Desert Museum recently attended a meeting on the roll-out of SB13, which focuses on tribal history in Oregon.

Kepple: Shared intelligence he had relating to the Klamath Falls Downtown.

Landis: Announced that the Oregon Digital Newspaper program applied to NEH for additional funding to add content and will know the outcome of the grant on September 1. Landis also noted that a Quonset Hut at OSU is undergoing a mitigation process to document the history of the building because it will be lost to capital planning and development. Items are being moved to offsite storage with proper environmental controls.

14. Adjournment (1:40 p.m.)