

Oregon Heritage Commission

June 7, 2021, 9a.m.--- APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners: Chelsea Rose, Rosemary Johnson, Kerry Savage, Anne LeVant Prah, Laura Ferguson, Kimberly Moreland, Matias Trejo De Dios, Todd Kepple, Mary McRobinson, Larry Landis, Michelle Woodard, Chrissy Curran, Ross Fuqua

Staff: Katie Henry, Kuri Gill

Public: none

1. Call to Order by Chair Rose at 9:00 a.m.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda
LeVant Prah moved to approve. Savage seconded. Approved
4. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2021
Savage moved to approve, Johnson seconded. Approved
5. No Public Comment
6. **Oregon Heritage Update**
 - **Budget and Staffing update.** Gill stated that OPRD has been following lottery updates which have been favorable. These forecasts will help determine when positions can be hired back. Hopeful that the rehiring process will start in July.
 - **Summit Recap.** Gill states that the Summit was successful but attendance was low. Good feedback right after but survey was sent out a little later. Attendees like the practical piece in the second day. Keynote speech is on the website. Notes and recommendations coming soon for the Latino Heritage networking event.
 - **2021 Awards** – Henry updated the commissioners on the videos that were presented the Summit. They can be viewed on the website.
 - **Legislative Update.** Gill relayed that a bill was passed that changed the date for designating historic cemeteries. It is now 75 years or earlier to align with archaeology laws. The other bill in play is one related to the special assessment program which is moving forward again. If passed it will just maintain the current program until another iteration of the program is created and passed. Related to rulemaking, the national register is going through this process.
 - **COVID Survey.** Henry said that there has been little response on the second COVID survey and that in hindsight they should have just picked a sample group to give 3 surveys to because perhaps it was confusing or should have just done one survey. Staff is still deciding between two option: leave it at one survey that was done with that information OR look at the results and see if there are organizations that filled out both and incentivize them filling out a third survey. LeVant Prah suggested making the third survey be the second survey and push for the first survey folks to do it.

- **Disaster Resilience Project Update.** Gill relayed that OEM and DLCD has shown interest in it which is good news as perhaps it can be included in city and county planning through those state departments. The project is being submitted for awards and presentations. Has been selected for a state planning association award. It has won a national award but we cannot release that news until the end of June. Gill found a USDA grant that she is considering applying for to have additional Oregon communities to do this process.

Rose asked about staff updates and Gill said that Jamie French became assistant state archaeologist and that they will be filling Jamie's previous position along with perhaps the other positions affected by the layoffs.

Moreland asked about where to find information on special assessment and Gill pointed her to the website and also the bill tracker website.

7. Northwest Digital Heritage Update

Henry updated the commission on NWDH which launched on May 25. You can visit the website at www.nwdigitalheritage.org. Already have heard from organizations on inclusion of it. Right now the partners are working on a governance structure and is leaning towards advisory committees. Moreland asked about private collections from families joining and Fuqua said that we can consider that but one option is to connect these families with local historical societies whose collections can then be included in NWDH or looking at academic libraries that may also do that.

8. Oregon Cultural Trust FY 2022

Henry went over the process for approving the FY2022 Oregon Cultural Trust Funds. LeVant Pahl, Moreland, Landis, and McRobinson volunteered to be on the committee at the last meeting in January and that staff will provide recommendations to the committee who will comment on them and then the recommendations will be voted on at the next meeting in Aug.

9. Oregon Heritage Tradition – Aumsville Corn Festival

Henry presented the Aumsville Corn Festival for an Oregon Heritage Tradition designation. The Festival started in 1968 and has always centered corn as it was the primary crop in that area and over the years when crops have diversified, corn was still central to the festival as it was such a part of the community's heritage for so long. The festival includes games, vendors, a court, live music, free corn, and a parade. Local service clubs are used for volunteers and the city contracts with a farmer early in the year to grow corn just for this event. Vendors are local and also come from out the of region and there is continuous participation from vendors year after year. Levant Pahl thought it ticked all of the boxes for the tradition criteria. Woodard was fascinated by the hog history of the area. Kepple enjoyed reading through the history, the detail, the themes they had each year. Johnson really liked year by year description and the interaction with the visitors and gave an old fashioned feel to it. Landis asked if there was information on the 2020 celebration during the pandemic. LeVant Pahl said it became a function of the city. Trejo De Dios has been and enjoyed the spirit of the festival greatly.

Moreland moved to make the Aumsville Corn Festival an Oregon Heritage Tradition and Trejo De Dios seconded. Approved.

10. Break

11. Volunteer Study Follow Up

Sarah Caagan with PSU presented on some follow up data from the 2020 Heritage Volunteer study that was commissioned by Oregon Heritage. She took the data collected and coded the responses and created a data set within a statistical analysis program. She used the program to run descriptive statistics on the data. The goal was to help the organizations get to know who their volunteers and what drives them so they could engage and retain them. Some commonalities are 55.9% identified as 65+ year of age, 56.5% identified as female, 50.8% are married, 74% identified as white, 20.9% have bachelors and 20.9% have masters, 59.9% said they were retired. Ran a test that looked at relationship between age against statement that volunteers are there for a sense of belonging and another test that looked at relationship between age and statement that volunteers are there to gain a new experience which resulted in statistical significance. Top three reasons they volunteer with the heritage organization. sense of belonging, gaining a new experience and be an engaged citizen. 54% of the respondents have volunteered for the organization for more than 5 years, 62% of volunteers financially donate to the organization, and 69.5% definitely will continue volunteering with their org. once the coronavirus is contained.

Recommendations: develop consistent and standardized volunteer management for organizations, creating opportunities for engagement and connections, and create opportunities for new skill development and training.

Rose asked about opportunities to bring in new demographics. Caagan said social media is one avenue specifically Twitter and tik tok to get a younger generation with the messaging if you want to be the change you need to know where you come from and social justice initiatives are huge with the younger generations.

Johnson asked about respondent variety. Caagan said there was definitely a variety of size of organizations and geographic range.

Moreland brought up racial equity needing to be addressed in the heritage community.

12. Overview of 2019 and 2020 grants

Gill went over the 2019 museum grant projects which has 13 completed and 5 extensions due to COVID. 2019 cemetery grant projects had 12 completed and one canceled. 2019 Preserving Oregon and Diamonds in the Rough grant and 12 completed Preserving Oregon grants and one canceled and 6 completed Diamonds in the Rough grant projects and 1.5 canceled projects.

Kuri went over the 2021 Museum Grant Committee recommendations for funding.

Gill reminded commissioners that if they have a conflict of interest with one of the recommended organizations then they need to abstain from the vote of that organization. LeVant Prah made a motion to approve funding for Architectural heritage Center grant and Savage seconded, Moreland abstained, approved. Kepple moved to approve that the remaining 12 recommended application be funded, Moreland seconded, approved.

13. Commission Positions and Officers

Henry went over current terms of current commissioner positions and called for volunteers to be on the committee to nominate the Chair and Vice Chair for the next two years. Kepple, Moreland, and Johnson volunteered for the committee and nominations will be put forth at the August 9 meeting.

14. Fieldwork Reports by Commissioners

Johnson – museums in Astoria up and running again, cruise ships are coming back in which helps visitation. County finished natural hazard mitigation plan and included disaster plan information from SHPO website.

Rose – had a great event in Southern Oregon to celebrate renaming of Ben Johnson Mountain. VA in White City has a museum and they are moving the facility so she connected them with Oregon Heritage staff.

LeVant Prah – Oregon Jewish Museum and Holocaust Education Center is open again with opening of Halperin exhibit and she's back at work.

Landis – Part of an advisory group for a marker celebrating Mt. Union Cemetery and homestead site of Reuben and Mary Jane Shipley, former slaves that lived in Benton County. New Corvallis Museum opened. Despite restrictions Corvallis had a successful historic preservation Month mentioned a game that we could also do for the 2022 Heritage Conference.

McRobinson – Oregon State Archives is fulfilling requests remotely still. They had a request to get online maps for redistricting so they are working on getting those online and accessible by all.

Moreland – appointed to Portland historic landmarks commission. Oregon Black Pioneers is partnering with Coos Bay organization for Juneteenth and memorializing Alonzo Tucker.

Woodard - Travel Oregon funded recovery grants. Marketing is starting again in state about safe travel and what to expect and responsible recreation, and business resiliency. Governor's Conference on Tourism is coming up and is online and free.

Fuqua – There is an acting State Librarian, Nancy Hoover, until they do a permanent hire. ARPA grants reminder that will be open to museum, tribes, and cultural heritage organizations with a June 30 deadline.

Trejo De Dios – mentioned the 2020 census, number of Hispanic Latinos in Oregon by city and stated several cities that ranged from 30% to over 50% of citizens that marked Hispanic/Latino as race. Also brought up Hispanic/Latino Heritage event and raised concerns with content and translation want to have a committee to evaluate the event and make recommendations for future events, Gill went over the intent of the event but will provide more information to the commission, Rose thought maybe we could have a committee on DEI for our events in general

Kepple –The school district is calling on the museum to help with summer programs.

Meeting Adjourned 12:15pm