



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:

Laura Ferguson (Chair); Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Anne Levant Pahl; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Chrissy Curran, State Historic Preservation Office; 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

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Old Train Station & Museum
1936 19th Avenue, Forest Grove
Concurrently held via Zoom

Members Present: Laura Ferguson (Chair); Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Anne Levant Pahl; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Theresa Rae, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

Staff Present: Katie Henry, Commission Coordinator; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator; Val Ballestrem, Preservation Bureau Assistant

Public: Sue Densmore, Nicole Rutherford, Chelsea Schnabel, MJ Koreiva, CoCo Sutton, Cricket Soules, Melody Haveluck, Harv Schubothe, Barry Branaugh, Kimberly Stevens, Michael Panhorst, Nicole Possert, Terri Erskine

Meeting Notes

Meeting brought to order at 2:00pm.

1. Commission Business

Action

- a. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Commissioner Johnson, moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented.
 - ii. Commissioner Provost seconded the motion.
 1. Motion carries; 8 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
- b. Review of the January 22, 2024, meeting minutes.

- i. Commissioner Provost, moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.
- ii. Commissioner Melton, seconded the motion.
 - 1. Motion carries; 8 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

2. Public Comment

Information

- a. Chair Ferguson called for public comment related to items not on the agenda.
 - i. Sue Densmore with the Oregon Caves and Chateau thanked the commission for the grant they were awarded and advised of ongoing restoration work.

3. Oregon Cultural Trust Update

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator Henry gave the board an update on news related to the Oregon Cultural Trust, projects included in the Commission's FY 24 Oregon Cultural Trust Statewide Partner grant, and information on serving on the Oregon Cultural Trust funds committee.

4. 2024 State Legislative Update

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator Henry provided an update on bills passed impacting the Commission's work, arts, culture, and heritage interests noting that final result was folding two bills into SB5701 section 495.
- b. Commissioner Tymchuk provided an updated on SB1531, establishing the American 250th Oregon Commission. Henry let the Commission know that she inquired with the Governor's office on whether staff could serve as the Heritage Commission designee and is still waiting to hear from them.

5. Heritage All-Star Community Application – Coos Bay

Action

- a. Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator, Kuri Gill, presented the application from Coos Bay for the Heritage All-Star Community Designation. General Application information and criteria for this designation can be found at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/heritage-designations.aspx>
- b. Chelsea Schnabel, Community Development Director, Nicole Rutheford, the City Manager, MJ Koreiva Marshfield Sun Printing Museum, CoCo Sutton, City of Coos Bay Parks Commissioner, spoke to the importance of this designation to their community.
 - i. Commissioner Johnson, moved to approve the applicant.
 - ii. Commissioner Levant Prah, seconded the motion.
 - 1. Motion carries; 8 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

6. Oregon Heritage Plan

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator Henry advised on the 2026-2030 Oregon Heritage Plan, the process for developing it, commission input, and timelines.

7. Committee Reports

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator Henry advised the Heritage Traditions Committee will provide more information in July and that the Tribal Relationship Building Committee was able to meet and will also provide more information in July.

8. Chair/Vice Chair

Action

- a. Chair Ferguson informed that her Chair term is ending, and proposed Rosemay Johnson become Chair, Kerry Savage to be Vice Chair beginning July 1, 2024.
 - i. Commissioner Provost moved to appoint Commissioner Johnson to Chair, and Commissioner Savage to Vice Chair, beginning July 1, 2024.
 - ii. Commissioner Levant Pahl seconded the motion.
 - 1. Motion carries; 6 for, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.

9. Commissioner Update

Information

- a. This will be the last meeting for Chair Ferguson and Commissioner Trejo de Dios. They have both served two full terms and their contributions to the Commission have been innumerable.
- b. Theresa with the Oregon State Archives reported that Stephanie Clark, Director of Oregon State Archives, will be serving on the Oregon 250th Commission, and advised of the free record resources available to the public.
- c. Commissioner Savage advised of progress on the Northwest Digital Project.
- d. Commissioner Landis noted that many Universities and Colleges have been seeing declines in enrollment and that this will affect funding for historic preservation.
- e. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella remarked that the Talent Historical Society won an Oregon Capital Gateway Award.
- f. Advisory member Fuqua shared NW Digital Heritage is turning 3 years old. During that time they have harvested a lot of data and digital collections. The Oregon Digital Newspaper project is working on digitizing historical tribal documents.
- g. Commissioner Provost has starting compiling a list of heritage organizations and resources within their region and will be reaching out trying to engage with the community in person and virtually.
- h. Commissioner Johnson is working on the Astoria Heritage Resiliency plan.
- i. Advisory member Woodward advised that the new Travel Oregon Guide has been released and contains several pages of heritage information.
- j. Commissioner Trejo De Dios reported that there will be a tribute to Gerardo Calderon, an artist, composer, and educator, who recently passed away, on April 27th at the Chehalem Cultural Center. Additionally, he will be going to Seville, Spain, for a presentation on the Hispanic Origins of Oregon.
- k. Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator, Kuri Gill, gave an update for the Historic Preservation Office; the final draft of the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan has been sent to the National Parks Service for review. There are now staff in the Oregon Emergency Management Plan providing information on Historic Preservation. There have been several staffing changes, including a new Deputy Director of Heritage Division. This roll was previously filled by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Chrissy Curran, in addition to her Deputy SHPO duties, and how now been separated.

10. Friends of Historic Forest Grove Presentation & Tour

Information

- a. Melody Haveluck, Museum and Library Manager, gave a tour to the Commission and those present for the meeting today.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.