

# Oregon Heritage Commission

April 25, 2019 -- APPROVED MINUTES

Inn at the Commons, Cascade Room  
200 North Riverside Ave, Medford OR 97501

**Commissioners:** Chrissy Curran, Laura Ferguson, Anne LeVant Prah, Sarah LeCompte, Larry Landis, Rosemary Johnson, Todd Kepple, Chelsea Rose, Layne Sawyer (phone), Matias Trejo de Dios (phone).

**Staff:** Beth Dehn

**Public:** Bevin Clapper (OPRD), Amy Clearman (OPRD- SHPO)

**1. Call to Order** Todd Kepple

**2. Introductions** All

**3. Approval of Agenda** All

Johnson moved to approve the agenda. LeCompte seconded; approved.

**4. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2019** Todd Kepple

Rose moved to approve the minutes. LeVant Prah seconded; approved.

**5. Public Comments**

**6. Reports by Commissioners** All

**Johnson:** Reported that the Scandinavian Heritage Park group is changing their name to Nordic Heritage Park to be more inclusive of Nordic countries.

**Landis:** Discussed teacher walk-out on May 8. Additionally, OPB received a regional Grammy.

**LeCompte:** Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is moving into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a project to update Native American interpretation. Also discussed joint tourism outreach efforts.

**Ferguson:** Discussed the Oregon Encounters Program at High Desert Museum that used an Oregon Heritage grant to interpret more stories. Chelsea Rose conducted a training.

**Curran:** Discussed successful outcome of HB2081 that was signed by the governor and changed the word celebrate to commemorate in Commission's statute. Also discussed how the change ties to inclusion work State Parks is doing. Reported that the budget review committee is working on State Parks budget, which includes a request to increase funding for the museum grant.

**Kepple:** Discussed Senate Resolution 12 that offered an apology related to the Modoc Wars. Language was changed to call it a tragic incident rather than apologize. While well meaning, there was concern that Klamath Tribes were not consulted. Kepple added there is a bigger picture to understand and consider before offering specific apologies and not addressing larger ones. Also reported working on short YouTube videos on Klamath Falls history to engage new audiences.

**Rose:** Reported that she is getting ready for field school on the Oregon Chinese Diaspora. Also working on nominating Britt Garden for the National Register as an archaeological site.

**Trejo de Dios:** Reported that Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana is holding a presentation in Salem on May 25 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage. A new book on the history of Oregon will be announced.

## **7. Standing Business**

All

Dehn reported that the Volunteer and Visitation workshops are on track. And a reminder that the Heritage Grant will open this summer.

Next meeting locations: Discussed Hood River/Troutdale for January 2020. Potential to include Cascade Locks and Bonneville Dam.

## **8. Discussion and Action on bylaws**

Todd Kepple

Dehn reported that staff drafted footnote language that explains why the coordination of Asian American Heritage Month is in statute but not the bylaws. This solution was requested by the Commission in January so that the language under Mission Section G can change from *coordinate* to *support* the Asian American Heritage Month. Commissioners discussed the solution and draft. Kepple called for a vote on changing coordinate to support under subsection G of the bylaws and to use a footnote. All in favor; unanimous.

Commissioners then discussed the motion on the table from the October 2018 meeting to change the word “celebrate” to “commemorate” in section F of the Mission of the bylaws.

Commissioners agreed that with House Bill 2081 signed into law and effective January 1, 2020 it was a good time to wrap up work on the bylaws. Kepple called for a vote to update the language in subsection G of the bylaws from celebrate to commemorate. All in favor; unanimous.

## **9. Long Term Planning**

Beth Dehn

**Presentation & discussion on Heritage Plan Evaluation:** Dehn presented a draft of the proposed 2020 Heritage Plan with an evaluation component. Dehn reported that staff reviewed Oregon Heritage’s programs to make modifications for them to meet the proposed goals. Dehn explained that because the proposed goals are outward facing, the evaluation plan proposes to conduct a multi-year study of select heritage organizations across the state to measure movement on the indicators outlined under each goal.

Commissioners discussed the breadth of the evaluation plan and how to consider trends that the Commission wants to see. Concern about compiling both quantitative and qualitative data was expressed. Commissioners wanted to be sure the evaluation plan that is presented publicly doesn’t make organizations feel like they’re getting graded. Thoughts about how to present the plan as “what we can do for you” were discussed. There is also a desire to report back on things that didn’t go well and be transparent about areas of improvement. Ferguson noted that involving an evaluation consultant during the creation stage of the process may be important to be certain the plan is created in an executable way.

Several commissioners volunteered to be on an outreach committee if needed: LeVant Prah, Johnson, Ferguson.

**10. 2020 Heritage Conference Brainstorm**

Beth Dehn

Dehn announced the theme for the 2020 Heritage Conference. Commission brainstormed heritage needs, issues, and potential sessions related connected to the proposed 2020 Plan goals.

**11. Action on Chair & Vice Chair Selection**

Nominating Committee

LeCompte reported that the Nominating Committee of LeCompte, LeVant Prahl and Sawyer met and with permission nominated Rose for Chair and Trejo de Dios for Vice Chair. Floor was opened for additional nominations. None withstanding, Johnson motioned for Rose to become chair and Trejo de Dios vice chair effective July 1, 2020. Ferguson seconded; unanimous.

**12. Create Ad Hoc Committee for Cultural Trust Funds**

Todd Kepple

Kepple called for volunteers to review FY20 Cultural Trust Funds. Ferguson, Johnson and Landis volunteered.

**13. Adjournment (11:30 a.m.)**