

# Oregon Heritage Commission

October 18, 2019 -- MINUTES

Oregon State Archives

800 Summer St NE, Salem OR 97301

**Commissioners:** Matias Trejo de Dios, Rosemary Johnson, Todd Kepple, Amit Kobrowski, Laura Ferguson, Anne LeVent Prah, Carole Astley, Larry Landis (Phone)

**Staff:** Beth Dehn, Katie Henry

**Public:** None

## 1. Call to Order (1:05 p.m.)

Matias Trejo de Dios

## 2. Introductions

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Johnson moved to approve the agenda. LeVent Prah seconded; approved.

## 4. Approval of Minutes from July 29, 2019

Trejo de Dios noted two changes to his commission report. Kepple moved to approve the minutes with adjustments. Ferguson seconded; approved.

## 5. Public Comments

## 6. Department of Education Update

Amit Kobrowski

Kobrowski reported on three new social studies bills: SB13, SB664, HB2845. Kobrowski shared how Ethnic Studies is defined by the working group, areas where the bills overlap, and that teachers and students will need assistance in accessing historical exhibits, events, and lesson plans addressing underrepresented histories of Oregon, the US, and the world. Commissioners discussed how teachers receive training, how historic content is shared, and ways to support museums that are assisting teachers with training.

## 7. Travel Oregon Strategic Plan Update

Carole Astley

Astley presented on Travel Oregon's new strategic plan, including the mission, vision and equity statement. She discussed new marketing strategies, the change in focus between marketing and management, the investment in product development, and how the competitive grants program has funded many heritage projects.

## 8. Communication Toolkit Update

Beth Dehn & Committee

Dehn reported that the Sharing the Value of Heritage toolkit is live and additional components will be rolled out to keep attention on the toolkit. The Toolkit Committee met on October 7 and discussed endorsing History Relevance's Value of History statement as a way to support a national conversation about heritage value and provide additional value statement examples for

the toolkit. Commissioners discussed who is behind the project, whether basic value language is still needed, and the benefit of not reinventing the wheel.

**Follow-up:** Staff will look into what endorse means and whether the Commission is allowed to make an endorsement. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

### **9. Public Comment on 2020 Heritage Plan**

Dehn summarized feedback collected on the proposed Heritage Plan. While the Commission would have liked a greater response rate, there was good geographic representation (Salem, Bend, Portland, Eugene, La Grande, Florence, Beaverton, Hermiston) from a mix of affiliations (museums, city, county, preservation orgs, historic building, National Park Service). General trends showed that responders felt the goals were in line with expectations and the majority of responders indicated the goals align with their work and their organizations would join the effort. Commissioners discussed that there were no red flags and many questions that came up on the comments will be addressed by the supporting documents that will accompany the Plan. Commissioners agreed to move forward with goals as written.

**Follow-up:** Staff will draft a more final version to be reviewed at the January meeting.

### **10. Fieldwork Updates by Commissioners**

**Kepple:** Reported that Gilchrist Mall is in danger of destruction. The Fire Department has proposed to buy it and burn it down.

**Johnson:** Reported that Nordic Heritage Park is on track and big dollars are coming in, which is exciting for Astoria. Johnson is the liaison for the City for hazard mitigation plans and is looking forward to the model on how to include museums.

**Trejo de Dios:** Reported that the Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana is working on a 2<sup>nd</sup> anthology of poetry. They have a new partnership with Chehalem Cultural Center and are normalizing Hispanic/Latino culture in programming such as cooking and music classes. There is also progress on the Hispanic History of Northwest book, which includes an afterward.

**Ferguson:** Reported that High Desert Museum has a new “Witness to Wartime” exhibit opening about Japanese incarceration at Minidoka. Also reported on progress of a project called “Creating Together,” to bring tribal representatives together to correct the narrative and renovate “By Hand Through Memory.”

**Sawyer:** The Archives are installing a new exhibit about ghost towns “Rot, Ruin, and Rest.” Also reported an active E Record Day.

**LeVant Prahl:** Reported that Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Studies is focusing on the refugee voice. They are expanding their speakers bureau to include refugees of other genocides to provide first person accounts of persecution.

**Astley:** Reported that things are busy, but just hired a new position, which should help.

### **11. Adjournment (3:30 p.m.)**