



Oregon Heritage Commission Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

Enterprise City Hall

102 E North St

Enterprise

Commission Members:

Laura Ferguson (Chair); Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Anne Levant Prahl; 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

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

In Attendance

• Laura Ferguson, Commission Chair	• Buzzy Nielsen, Advisory Commissioner
• Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Commissioner	• Mary McRobinson, Advisory Commissioner
• Libby Provost, Commissioner	• Larry Landis, Advisory Commissioner
• Kerry Savage, Commissioner	• Staff – Katie Henry, Ian Johnson

Business (9:00 a.m.)

- a) Welcome & Introductions
- b) Agenda Approval
 - a) Levant Prahl moved to approve, Provost seconded. Passed.
 - b) Joint Meeting – Provost moved to approve, Flanagan Battistella seconded. Passed.
- c) Aug. 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval
 - a) Larry noted minor corrections to Northwest Digital Heritage/Omeka/Oregon Century Farm & Ranch. Flanagan Battistella moved to approve, Levant Prahl seconded. Passed.

1. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)

- None

2. Oregon Heritage Staff Update, Katie Henry (9:20, Information)

- Johnson updated the Commission on the following:
 - a. his appointment by Chrissy as SHPO designee at Commission meetings
 - b. Oregon Heritage/SHPO is hiring an archivist in the next 6 months, current have two Program Analyst 1 positions open for Compliance Bureau and Preservation Bureau
- Henry updated the commission on the following:

- a. Fall workshops on organizational planning are happening in 5 locations across the state followed by a virtual option
- b. Summary of the metrics of the Heritage Tradition Here is Oregon marketing campaign for the first two articles featuring summer tradition events and winter tradition events. Flanagan Battistella suggested consideration of EO Media for future marketing efforts to get statewide coverage. Ferguson inquired about an outlet on the Coast and Landis commented that EO publishes the Astoria paper and Nielsen mentioned the World paper.
- c. Northwest Digital Heritage update includes reminder of the guide to cleaning up collection information, hosting option will be streamlined by the spring, kits will be going out after some instructional videos are made. Nielsen noted that Ross is going to do some upgrades to the Omeka hosting instance and that Washington State Library has contracted with someone to implement software to help automate the process which will be very helpful for the capacity of staff.
- d. The Oregon Heritage Vitality Report RFP did not get any proposals but we are exploring universities for centers and institutes that might be able to take on this project. We did end up having over \$10,000 less than planned because we don't have final numbers from Oregon Cultural Trust partner funds until after we go through the Commission proposal process. This reduced the vitality report to \$50,000 and dropped the harmful language project down to \$10,000.
- e. There is a survey produced by the Oregon Museums Association asking museums for projects and costs. This survey is a result of an inquiry to Oregon Museums Association from Rep. Mannix related to possible future legislation. Oregon Heritage has not been approached or asked for information at this time. Commissions are able to take the survey as private individuals at this time.
- f. 23/24 Commission meeting schedule:
 - i. Nov. 27, virtual, 10-11, grant approvals
 - ii. Jan. 21-22, 2024, North Coast
 - iii. April 17-19, 2024, OHC meeting and Conference, Forest Grove
 - iv. July 21-22, 2024, Location TBD
 - v. Oct. 27-28, 2024, Location TBD

3. Oregon Heritage 2020-2025 Plan, Katie Henry (9:40 a.m., Action Item)

- Henry brought up for discussion the possible action of changing the Heritage Plan Goal from "Purse Best Practices" to "Pursue Better Practices" citing concerns that perception of "best practices" and "field and industry standards" can be intimidating and barriers to getting work done.
- Levant Prahll indicated that she thought the inclusion of "pursue" in the goal addressed that concern.
- Levant Prahll and Flanagan Battistella both cited it's standard language in the industries. Henry commented that the majority of those we serve are not from the industry or formally trained in the industry.
- Landis agreed that "best practices" can be seen as an unachievable goal and has some negative connotations and better implies continual improvement and best may be perceived as unachievable.
- Provost brought up "best practices" can be pe language matters "best practices" in some groups is viewed as a dominant culture term and who is determining what is best and in her work avoids using that term.
- Ferguson said that best can be taken as a singular way and gave an example of using gloves is best when handling objects but for native American culture in relation to some objects handling with bare hands is the best practice. Better could indicate more incremental steps rather than best which can be perceived as needing to do it right now.
- Nielsen said using best practices and can set unreasonable benchmarking between organizations

- Flanagan Battistella does not like “better” but brought up the phrase “Continued Quality Improvement”
- Ferguson asked for a group of sub-committee members to come up with some language. Levant Prah, Landis agreed to continue the conversation with Henry.

4. National/Statewide Conference Share-Out, Katie Henry, Larry Landis, Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Cam Amabile, (9:55 a.m., Discussion)

- Cam reported out on her Oregon Museums Association conference. Theme of organizations wanting innovative, cost effective, efficient approach to how to get work done with limited resources and sessions honed in on this need.
- Flanagan Battistella referenced the moving keynote presentation by Kenny XXXXX, for her work a session on mitigation with historic resources was helpful, the conversations with funders session was well attended and the Oregon Heritage table had a lot of good resources. Flanagan Battistella and Amabile did a session on finding aids as an inventory option.
- Larry attended half of AASLH Conference in Boise and did a session on the Leticia Carson Project which being on the last day was not as well attended as they would have liked. He did a tour of the Idaho State Archives, attended a session about Washington state historical society on their monument and marker program and reviewing and changing language on markers and monuments. Visited the Basque Museum, impressed with quality of exhibits.
- Henry informed the Commission of her participation in the AASLH Field Service Alliance Committee and attending that pre-conference meeting and networking with those from different states doing technical assistance and learning from each other. Attended a session discussing going beyond NAGPRA which focused on tribal relationships in addition to the law. The plenary presentation had 5 individuals presenting different perspectives on history in the country. The presentation was in a historic theater which echoed one of the unique aspects of the Oregon Heritage Conference that moves attendees to different buildings, often historic, to help create that experience. Henry relayed a Washington state project featuring identifying racial covenants on properties in Washington and financial assistance to remove them that was funded by the legislature.
- Flanagan Battistella will be attending the Northwest Anthropological Conference, Nielsen related that Ross Fuqua is attending the Association for Tribal Archives Museums and Libraries Conference, McRobinson will be attending the State Historical Administrators Meeting at the end of Nov.

5. Local Eastern Oregon Heritage Organization Presentations (10:25, Discussion)

- Alana Carollo Executive Director of the Eastern Oregon Visitor Association and presented the 2023/2025 Strategic Plan they just completed.
- Henry mentioned a conversation at the Main Street Conference with someone from Baker City and the conversation about Past Perfect and sharing a system between some of the organizations, aging volunteers was also a concern.
- Union County Museum Society sent a letter about challenges and successes that Henry read to the Commission that included a description of the organization and challenges included lack of volunteers.

6. Land Acknowledgement & Commission tribal engagement – call for committee (10:55, Discussion)

- Henry provided background on the two previous commission conversations. October 2022 in Talent included a presentation by Patrick Flanagan, Director of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), on the LCIS Land Acknowledgement Guidance followed by the January 2023 conversation with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s Tribal Liaison Helena Kesch. She indicated that OPRD was developing a tribal relations policy and was inclined to accept the guidance provided by LCIS.
- Ferguson called for a committee to structure the conversation with the Commission at future meetings. Committee Volunteers included Levant Prah, Provost, Nielsen tentatively volunteered Ross Fuqua, Henry will open it up to those not at the meeting as well and Ferguson will join but

drop off if other governor appointed Commissioners want to participate so we don't run into quorum issues.

- Henry suggested a committee form to discuss how the Oregon Heritage Commission wanted to progress forward on focusing on tribal relationships in the Commission's work.

7. Commissioner Reports (11:05 a.m., Information)

Ferguson outlined the new format for reports which includes any items related to the four goals and suggestions for future meetings.

- Landis will email a few things of interest to pass along.
- Levant Prah is intending to connect with Provost to collect information in the Portland region to report to the meetings.
- Flanagan Battistella mentioned an Oregon Black Pioneers event in Southern Oregon, Southern Oregon Historical Society has a leaking roof that will impact the availability of those resources, Southern Oregon Digital Newspaper program is continuing work as funding allows, received funding from Travel Southern Oregon to revamp a brochure for local heritage tourism and a two part workshop on heritage tourism.
- Nielsen updated on the inclusion of the Oregon Scenic Images collection being included in Northwest Digital Heritage, State Library is hiring a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, will be working with UO to hire someone to work on tribal newspaper digitization project, and the state library and the Portland State University Library won federal depository library of the year award.
- Provost is planning to send out email to heritage organizations to introduce herself and invitations for conversations.
- McRobinson updated on State Archives and were granted funds to upgrade shelving to expand collection space.
- Ferguson would like to continue conversation at future meetings related to small organizations and Henry reminded the Commission of the Heritage Vitality report conversation at the next day's meeting.

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