

Oregon Heritage Commission
September 21, 2015
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Board Room
The Dalles

Approved Minutes

Commissioners: Mary Kay Dahlgreen, MariLou Diamond, Todd Kepple, Sarah LeCompte, Eric Martin, Carol Michael, Andrea Morgan, Jerry Ostermiller, Jon Tullis.

Staff: Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill.

Public: Carolyn Purcell, Marge Dryden, Steve Kruger, Kristen Stallman, Ernie Drapela, Judy Davis, Mark Berry.

Martin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Welcome: Purcell, the director of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda: Ostermiller moved the agenda be approved. Diamond second. Approved unanimously .

Minutes of June 5 meeting: Martin noted the adjournment time should be a.m. Noting that correction, Diamond moved the minutes be approved. LeCompte seconded. Approved without dissent.

Public Comments: There were none.

Statewide Celebration: Jansson said the Commission had received a request from the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee to designate the highway's centennial in 2016 as a statewide celebration. He provided commissioners in their packets information about how the centennial meets administrative rule criteria for designation. The Heritage Traditions subcommittee reviewed it and unanimously supported the designation. Stallman, who is the Gorge Area coordinator for the Oregon Department of Transportation, said that when the highway was built it showed the rest of the country how to build roads for "car hiking" as it was referred to. The road is a National Historic Landmark. Beginning June 7, communities along the route will be incorporating the centennial into their events. She said 10 miles of the highway trail are left to be opened and they hope to be re-opening the next section soon. Drapela and Davis also spoke in favor the designation.

Stallman said the advisory committee is working with its friends group, Weinstein PR, Travel Oregon and others to promote the celebration. Jansson said communication is the primary way the Commission will be able to support the celebration. Commissioners related some of their first experiences with the Gorge highway and made suggestions to the advisory committee about other communication opportunities. Dryden said the first developed campground of the US

Forest Service is along the highway. Michael made a motion that the Commission declare the highway's centennial celebration a statewide celebration. Diamond seconded. Approved unanimously.

Heritage Commission History: Jansson made a presentation on the origins and history of the Heritage Commission. The presentation discussed legislative history, the Commission-OPRD relationship, successes, areas for improvement, and the future. Key points of the talk included that the initial idea for the Commission was to create a statewide advocate; Ballot Measure 66 has been critical to its effectiveness; a series of activities has led to the significance of its technical assistance; and the Commission has created relationships unanticipated when it was created.

2015 Legislature: Jansson said a bill that would have required the Commission to decide where statues brought back from the national capitol's Statuary Hall would go died, as did a bill that would have created a preservation tax credit. The Oregon Historical Society received a funding increase. Dahlgreen said the State Library received a slight budget increase and a new operating statute. Morgan said there was no additional funding provided for teacher development related to the Oregon Studies effort. Gill noted lottery funds were approved for a Main Street grant program.

Heritage Plan: Jansson provided a first-year look at implementation of the most recent Heritage Plan. Some progress was noted with Collections and Economic Development/Tourism, but none on education and communications. Martin noted that the Commission had previously decided to focus its limited resources in the first year on Collections Development/Tourism and said the Commission needs to keep its eye on finding resources to carry all four areas out. Also suggested was a change in emphasis to supporting groups trying to do the work rather than the Commission. Commissioners could individually help on the communication effort.

Cultural Trust Funds: Jansson reviewed changes in the Cultural Trust funding mechanism, and how the Commission has historically made its decisions. Kepple was part of a committee that reviewed the staff recommendation for FY16. The committee recommends approval. He would like to see the communications tool kit produced, but understands why it was not recommended. Commissioners discussed the recommendations, as well as the communications toolkit. Some suggested the toolkit be a part of FY17 recommendation provided commissioners work on communication goals this year. . Kepple made a motion to approve the proposals recommended by staff and the committee. Tullis second. Approved without dissent.

Heritage All-Star Community Grants: Gill provided photos and information about the grants that were approved as part of the FY15 Cultural Trust fund distribution. The grants enabled the communities to collaborate more and continue to develop heritage.

Collections: Jansson said the Institute of Museum and Library Services was sent a request this morning to extend the Connecting to Collections grant. The projects in the grant application have been completed, but a couple of the measures were not reached, primarily because they may not have been reasonable to begin with. Bringing management of the project back into Commission

staff provided significant cost savings. If the extension is approved, staff intend to use the remaining funds for collections care trainings and disaster plan incentives.

Dahlgreen said the digitization efforts in Oregon are a fluid, tangled mess situation. She, Jansson, MaryBeth Herkert, and two others met last month to talk about how the state can provide leadership related to presentation of historic materials. Jansson said that currently no organization seems willing and able to provide leadership and money to the effort. Gill noted that not having a coordinated digitization effort means that the Commission's grant programs continue to support a dispersed effort.

Bylaws: Martin noted the current draft is the result of two years of discussions. Commissioners suggested pushing further discussion back until more commissioners are present. They will be wrapped into the communications discussion.

Heritage Conference: The conference will take place May 4-6 in the Oregon Capitol.

Reports of Commissioners:

Michael said she had heard considerable discussion by other people about visiting Lewis and Clark sites while she was touring in Canada.

LeCompte said the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is working at getting translations of its historical materials, as more visitors from foreign countries have arrived, in part due to advertising in a German publication.

Dahlgreen said the State Library's Board of Trustees will be reviewing the LSTA Advisory Group recommendations for grants.

Diamond provided commissioners with pieces of delicious baklava and invited everyone to attend the Portland Greek Festival Oct. 2-4.

Ostermiller said Oregon State University is including submerged cultural resources efforts in its campaign to become a premier oceanographic facility.

Tullis has been visited by the National Trust's editor of This Place Matter.

Adjournment: Diamond moved adjournment. Michael second. Approved unanimously at 1:48 p.m.

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