

Minutes
Oregon Heritage Commission
August 4, 2008

Teleconference
Public Listening Room in Room 146, North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St. NE, Salem

Present: Carole Astley, Constance Beaumont, Donald Ivy, George Kramer, Jan Mitchell, Roger Roper, E. John Rumpakis, Layne Sawyer, Jim Scheppke, Jon Tullis, George Vogt, Irene Zenev, Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill.

Meeting was called to order by George Kramer at 10:02 a.m. Members present at the time introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda:

With the addition of a Connecting to Collections item under New Business, the agenda was accepted without dissent.

Approval of Minutes:

Ivy noted that he should be listed as absent from the May meeting. Rumpakis moved that the minutes of Jan. 28 and May 6 meetings be approved, with the addition of the Ivy absence to the May minutes. Ivy second. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Information:

Oregon 150: Jansson said Oregon 150 has hired Melisa McDonald as its new director. It continues to seek additional private funding. There will be two public events this month to bring attention to the sesquicentennial, one being the unveiling of a postage stamp design at the Capitol and the other the unveiling of a Pendleton woolen blanket at the State Fair. Roper said the second unveiling will be at the historic Poultry Building at the State Fair. Kramer noted that with his resignation from the Oregon 150 board, Jansson is the only Commission contact with Oregon 150.

Commission Expenditures: Kramer said he had asked for the report. Jansson explained the structure of the chart. Roper noted that OPRD is paying increased attention to expenditures because of the economic swoon and budgeting. Kramer said he was most interested in increasing the funds available for heritage grants. Roper said the last Legislature had been asked to increase funding of grants for heritage, but those funds were instead pushed by the Legislature toward park acquisition. Legislative and state organizations are concerned whether Measure 66 funds can be used for heritage. Kramer asked if that is the environment, how can funds to heritage be increased. Tullis noted that

Measure 66 funds are also designated for salmon habitat restoration. Vogt said that a CHAMP II proposal is being prepared by the Governor's office and he hopes it will include as least the same amount for Oregon Historical Society funding as this biennium. Commissioners discussed the possibility of finding legislative champions. Kramer asked Vogt to keep Commission informed of CHAMP II. Rumpakis suggested inviting legislators to the 2009 Heritage Conference and the awards presentation. Kramer said the discussion will be continued.

Heritage Conference: Jansson said he senses great excitement about the conference. There will be an idea-gathering meeting in Portland later this week and already 50 people have said they will attend. Astley suggested the conference create tours for the general public that take place during the conference. Tullis said success seems to be breeding more success.

Heritage Fellowships: Jansson said eight applications have been received and will be reviewed by a committee. Beaumont volunteered to be on the committee.

Grant program updates: Jansson told the Commission that two grants have been terminated because the applicants will not be able to complete their work.

Centennial Horizons Update: Jansson and Roper reviewed the status of this OPRD planning document. It is in the final phases of adoption by the OPRD Commission.

Regional Service Update: Jansson described limited progress so far, and that they will be making an effort to keep focused on getting some results. Vogt said field service is something that could interest legislators in funding since it is local and it is meaningful service.

Old Business:

Heritage in the Legislature: Roper reviewed non-budgetary items that will be presented to the Legislature, including a property-tax reduction program for historic property that will replace the 35-year-old program that has been tinkered with many times. There may also be an executive order encouraging the state to locate office buildings in downtown areas. In addition, work has started on CHAMP II.

Historic Newspaper Digitization Project:

Jansson and Roper reported that the Commission's funds received from the Oregon Cultural Trust could be available for this project up to \$145,000. Scheppke said the UO's project proposal for a Library Services and Technology Act grant was the number one ranked project contingent on leverage other dollars. Kramer also said discussions have taken place with a legislator who said there is a possibility of getting general fund support. Zenev made motion that the Commission recommends OPRD use the 2008 Cultural Trust funds, and other funds up to \$145,000, to support the newspaper digitization project. Ivy second. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

Heritage Grant Administrative Rule: Jansson reported that the Heritage Grant administrative rule has functioned well since it was adopted. The only concern raised occasionally is the limitation on the types of applicants permitted. The language currently excludes a half dozen category of applicants. Jansson said he has been asked about the possibility of making state-supported universities and independent state agencies eligible. The universities now receive far less than half of their funds from the state, and independent agencies such as the Travel Information Council rely entirely on fees. These organizations undertake heritage projects, such as library special collections or highway historic signs.

Fugate said that with no additional funding coming for Heritage Grants, it doesn't make sense to expand the list of potential applicants. Several commissioners agreed. Rumpakis said he would like to consider it, but is concerned about the funding issues and would like to see both sides of the issue presented. Kramer said that if Jansson is interested in pursuing this, additional information and a better explanation would be needed.

Connecting to Collections: Jansson said he will draft on behalf of a variety of statewide organizations a grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a Connecting to Collections State Planning Grant. He requested the Commission's endorsement of the planning grant effort. Ivy made motion to have the Commission endorse the planning grant application. Mitchell seconded. Motion approved without dissent.

Commissioners then discussed their next meeting date and decided to re-schedule their next meeting for Nov. 10 at a site to be determined.

Adjournment: At 11:55 p.m., Ivy made to motion to adjourn. Mitchell seconded. Approved unanimously.

(Approved by Commission on 10 November 2008)