

**Oregon Heritage Commission**  
**Thursday, May 13, 2010**  
**Washington County Museum**  
**17677 NW Springville Rd, Portland, OR**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Kimberly Jensen, George Kramer, David Lewis, Carol Michael, Jan Mitchell, Andrea Morgan, E. John Rumpakis, Jim Scheppke.

**Staff Present:** Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill.

**Public:** Sam Shogren.

**Call to Order**

Kramer called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Rumpakis moved to accept the preliminary agenda. Michael seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Welcome**

Sam Shogren, the museum's executive director, welcomed commissioners and talked about the positive developments at the museum during the past year, as well as upcoming programming.

**Public Comments**

None

**Approval of February 1, 2010 minutes**

Lewis noted he attended the meeting but is not listed. Mitchell moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Jensen second. Approved unanimously.

**Lower Columbia Heritage Area**

Mitchell said there was a recent push to advance efforts for designation of the Lower Columbia River as a federal heritage area. A presentation about the proposal was made to the Commission last year. Jansson has drafted a letter of support that was circulated to the Commission. Jensen moved that the Commission create a letter supporting the Columbia Heritage Area, with the coordinator and Mitchell to write it; Rumpakis seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Oregon Heritage Tradition Designation**

Jansson said that when the Pendleton Round-Up was nominated for an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award earlier this year, he saw designation of the Round-Up as an Oregon Heritage Tradition as more appropriate. With the nominator's permission, he prepared the Heritage Tradition proposal for the Round-Up. He said it meets the criteria the Commission has established for an Oregon Heritage Tradition award. He

recommended approval of the designation. After brief discussion, Mitchell moved that the Commission designate the Pendleton Round-Up as an Oregon Heritage Tradition; Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously. This is the second Tradition designation; the first of the Oregon State Fair was made last year.

### **Legislative Update/Oregon Historical Society**

Jansson reported that OPRD is moving forward second legislative concepts for the 2011 session, including two that relate to heritage. The first would change the language of the membership of the Commission, to replace the Business Development Department with the Oregon Tourism Commission. This seems to be a housekeeping bill as tourism, when it was part of the Business Development Department, was involved in the creation of the Commission and was always its representative to the Commission.

The second concept is a place holder dealing with the Oregon Historical Society. Discussions took place during early April among the Governor's office, historical society representatives, legislators and others to find short- and long-term funding solutions for OHS. Among solutions identified was one to have OHS declared a state historic site, which would then make it eligible for funding by OPRD.

Kramer said heritage funding with lottery dollars has been an issue in the past. The proposed designation seems like an "end around." The commission should be asked its opinion about the proposed solutions.

Jansson said Oregon 150 was funded with lottery dollars directed by the Legislature. OHS was looking into local funding. Local government pushed it back to state funding because OHS serves the state. There was general agreement that the State should be a part of the solution. OHS will push for the heritage district effort. The PDX mayor's office suggested merging with the CAN effort instead of the heritage district, but OHS would not get enough to stay open from CAN.

Commissioners also discussed the funding challenges facing the Southern Oregon Historical Society, which closed last fall and opened for limited hours this spring.

Mitchell moved that the Commission communicate to the Governor's office, OPRD or the speaker's office that we share the concern about the organizations and that the Commission would like to be a part of the solution. Motion withdrawn.

Commissioners talked about having it involved in finding both short- and long-term solutions, and whether to include OHS, SOHS and all heritage organizations in solutions.

Commissioners generally agreed on four points. 1. Thank the Governor's Office for supporting OHS in short term, 2. Heritage organizations in the state are suffering. 3. The Commission has been researching, documenting and analyzing the issues. 4. We would like to be involved in the creation of the long term solution for statewide heritage. Jansson will include a one page document to go with the letter.

Lewis moved that Jansson write a letter for the Commission to the Governor that includes the above points: thank them for supporting OHS in short term; mention that heritage organizations in the state are suffering; the Commission has been researching, documenting and analyzing the issues; and we would like to be involved in the creation of the long term solution for statewide heritage. Rumpakis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Commissioner Comments and Reports**

Scheppke inquired about the proposal of the State Historic Records Advisory Board for a document fee to help fund government records management in the state. He suggested inviting State Archivist Mary Beth Herkert back to continue that discussion.

Rumpakis said he attended the 96<sup>th</sup> annual dinner of Lang Syne Society of Oregon. Portland State University plans a major announcement in June.

Jensen said McMenamins will host an event in July by the Oregon Encyclopedia about the Oregon Womens Suffrage Centennial.

Lewis said Tribal Information Day at the State Capitol will be May 14. He has been asked to do the blessing on the Willamette meteorite in New York. Other efforts are taking place in the Willamette National Forest and at Cascadia Caves.

Morgan thanked Lewis for representing the commission on the State Social Studies standards committee.

Carol – Really nice that the Round Up has received this designation.

### **Adjourn**

Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Rumpakis seconded. Approved unanimously at 2:04 p.m.