



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 21-22, 2024

Cannon Beach, Oregon & Virtually

Oregon Heritage Commission

The Oregon Heritage Commission is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to champion resources, recognition, and funding for preserving and interpreting Oregon's past. Founded in 1995 by the Legislature, the Heritage Commission is comprised of nine gubernatorial appointments and nine ex-officio members. The Commission is designated in [ORS 358.570-595](#) as the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in Oregon.

Commission Members

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

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Tours

- 2:00 p.m. - Nehalem Valley Historical Society, 225 Laneda Avenue, Manzanita, OR
- 3:15 p.m. - Seaside locations, start at Seaside Museum, 570 Necanicum Dr, Seaside, OR

Monday, January 22, 2024

Business Meeting – 9:00 am to Adjournment

- **In-person Meeting**
Cannon Beach Historical Society, 1387 S Spruce St, Cannon Beach, OR
- **Concurrent Zoom Meeting**

Attendance

Those in person or virtually for all or part of the meeting included:

Members Present – Laura Ferguson (Chair); Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Anne Levant Pahl; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Wendy Cornelison; Larry Landi; Mary McRobinson; Kerry Tymchuk; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon.

Staff Present – Katie Henry, Commission Coordinator; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator; Ian Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mary Newcomb, Oregon Heritage Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public – Lenora & Trish

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Meeting Notes

Vice Chair, Rosemary Johnson brought the meeting to order at 9am.

1. Commission Business

- a. Welcome and Introductions Information
 - i. Chair, Laura Ferguson was unable to attend in person due to weather conditions. She asked Vice Chair, Rosemary Johnson, to run the meeting.
 - ii. Oregon Heritage has a new administrative specialist, Mary Newcomb.
- b. Approval of Agenda Action
 - i. Motion made to approve the agenda as presented by Anne LeVant Prahl.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Maureen Flanagan Battistella
 - iii. Motion passed
- c. Approval of October 20, 2023 Joint Meeting Minutes Action
 - i. Motion made to approve the October Meeting Minutes as presented by Libby Provost.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Maureen Flanagan Battistella
 - iii. Motion passed
- d. Approval of November 27, 2023 Minutes Action
 - i. Motion made to approve the November Meeting Minutes as presented by Maureen Flanagan Battistella.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Randall Melton.
 - iii. Motion passed

2. Public Comment

- a. No public comment made. Information

3. Oregon Heritage Update & Committee Update

- a. Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator, Kuri Gill, informed that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is experiencing some staff changes. Information.
 - i. Three staff members from the Preservation & Compliance Bureau have left the agency and another staff member will be retiring at the end of the month.
 - ii. The division was approved for two new positions in the last legislative session; both have been filled.
 - iii. Two limited duration positions have been created by the Agency to assist with review and compliance workload. These have been filled.
- b. Commission Coordinator, Katie Henry, discussed the Heritage Plan evaluation and changing course to include it in the outreach process for the next update, the 2026-2030 plan. With the evaluation not unfolding according to the original plan combined with the Heritage Vitality Study, staff feels like focusing on the study will actually help with the evaluation rather than stretching capacity for both.
- c. Oregon Cultural Trust Fund Project Updates:
 - i. Not pursuing the evaluation process for the Oregon Heritage Plan Katie believes she has found a consultant to assist with the Harmful Content Research Project.
- d. Awards and Conferences:



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- i. Registration for the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference in Forest Grove will open in late February. Groundbreaker speakers will be Martha Barnette and Grant Barrett; Co-Hosts & Co-Producers of, *A Way With Words*, nationwide public radio show and podcast.
- ii. The Oregon Excellence Awards remained open for an additional week due to the extreme weather.
- e. Grants opening in late January:
 - i. Oregon Museum, Historic Cemeteries, Preserving Oregon, and Diamonds in the Rough. Commissioners are asked to spread the word about these great opportunities.
- f. Committee Update:
 - i. Katie outlined current committees, members, vacancies, and recommendations for the following committee:
 - 1. Commission & Tribal engagement: Provost, Levant Prah, Ferguson
 - 2. Heritage Excellence Awards: Provost, Johnson, Curran, Gill
 - 3. Heritage Vitality Study: Flanagan Battistella is the OHC rep on the advisory group
 - 4. Heritage Traditions: Levant Prah, Woodard
 - 5. Best Vs. Better: Henry suggested folding this work into the 2026-2030 Heritage Plan update process. None opposed this plan.
 - Melton volunteered to be on the Commission and Tribal Engagement committee and the traditions committee

4. Goal 5 Cultural Areas Rule Update

Information

- a. Amanda Punton, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development provided an update on the rulemaking for [Goal 5 cultural areas](#).

5. 2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study

Information

- a. Aniko Drlik-Muehleck and students from the University of Oregon Institute for Policy Research and Engagement updated the Commission on the progress of the 2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study. The survey will be released this week and open until early February. Requested that the Commission helped promote the survey in their regions and networks.

6. Commissioner Updates

Information

- a. Kerry Tymchuk mentioned the 250th and legislation that is being put forth in the legislative session in February and asked about having a session related to it at the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference. OHS will open a new permanent exhibit on the history of Portland
- b. Mary McRobinson received two new positions and have hired for them at State Archives
- c. Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Klamath County Historic Levy passed, updates to digitizing historic newspapers in the region
- d. Wendy Cornelison mentioned additions to Northwest Digital Heritage and continues to work with organizations on digital collection work and the State Library is putting forth a policy option package to include a half time addition in staff digital collections work.
- e. Anne Levant, no updates

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- f. Libby Provost mentioned the Northwest Anthropological Conference and emphasized important work they are doing in equity and decision making.
- g. Larry Landis update the Commission on program he will be doing as part of the Black History Quest series with Oregon Black Pioneers.
- h. Laura Ferguson, no updates
- i. Randall Melton, no updates
- j. Kerry Savage, demonstrated the camera kit to the Baker County Historical Society and it was well received.
- k. Matias Trejo De Dios, strengthening collaborations to promote cultural diversity and Spanish language inclusion. Ongoing presentations with success related to the Hispanic Origins of Oregon
- l. Ian Johnson updated the commission on the Preservation Plan and new hires
- m. Michelle Woodard discussed heritage tourism workshop in Southern Oregon and the Eastern Oregon Visitor Association that has quarterly calls with culture and heritage organizations. Travel Oregon offers free trainings to support businesses and nonprofits and making sure their online google profile is updated

7. Clatsop College Historic Preservation Program

Information

- a. Ryan Prochaska and John Goodenberger with the Clatsop College Historic Preservation gave a presentation on the program and the projects the students are involved with across the state including the work they did with the Maxville townsite cabin.

8. Working Lunch

Information

- a. Liz Scott from the Cannon Beach Historical Society gave a presentation on their organization and programs. Discussion was had on the organization's community engagement,
- b. A tour of the museum was given.

9. Tillamook County Heritage Tourism & Local Heritage Organizations

Information

- a. Nan Devlin discussed the different ways that the organizations in the area partner together for heritage tourism purposes. Videos created for heritage related places and organizations were created that are promoted on the tourism website for the region.

10. Oregon Black Pioneers

Information

- a. Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP), discussed the growth of the organization including transitioning from an all volunteer organization to an organization with staff. The organization opened it's first physical office in Portland and is wrapping up a strategic planning process.

11. Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society Museum, Ghii Dee-ne Dvn

Information

- a. Presentation by Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society's (STAHS) Board Chair and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians #58 Honored Elder CTSI Cynthia Farlow and STAHS Development Director Stephanie Chamberlin on the new museum they broke ground on in 2023, Ghii Dee-ne Dvn (A Place for the People).

12. Commission Calendar

Information



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- a. April 17, 2024
 - i. The meeting will be held in Forest Gove in conjunction with the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference.
- b. July 21-22, 2024
 - i. This meeting will be held in Southern Oregon and the exact location is yet to be determined.
- c. October 27-28, 2024
 - i. The location of this meeting is yet to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm