

Multnomah County Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
April 2, 2020

Co-Chair Diane McKeel called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. Attending virtually via Zoom or telephonically were Co-Chair June Schumann, committee members Scott Nagawawa, Chevonne James, Jennifer Burns, Phillip Hillaire, Carl Abbott, James Harrison, Janice Dilg, Kristin Tiegen. Representing the Oregon Historical Society were Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk, Director of Community Engagement Eliza Canty Jones, and Chief Financial Officer Sheri Neal. Representing the Multnomah County Commission Chair Kafoury were Anna Marie Allen and Raffaele Timarchi. Representing Gresham Historical Society was Sharon Nesbit. Representing ECHO was Twila Mysinger. Representing Crown Point Historical Society was Sandy Cartisser.

Co-Chair McKeel expressed her hope that all participants were saying safe and healthy. She then called upon OHS Executive Director Tymchuk for an update.

Director Tymchuk reported the following:

*Pursuant to the Governor Brown's COVID-19 order, OHS closed to the public on Saturday, March 14. It will remain closed until allowed to re-open. The vast majority of staff is working remotely.

*OHS has implemented a robust plan to fulfill its mission to share history with Oregonians by using its social media and digital outlets. Previously scheduled live programs will now be conducted through zoom. Since schools are no longer making field trips to the museum, OHS is reaching out to classrooms, providing curriculum and workshops to teachers, and by hosting the first ever virtual National History Day.

*The new OHS exhibit "Nevertheless They Persisted" commemorating the centennial of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote opened on March 13—one day before OHS was required to close. During closure, OHS will focus attention on the topic of voting rights through virtual programs and material on their website.

*This being the first meeting of 2020, Tymchuk listed some of the OHS highlights of 2019, including the fact that the year's attendance was the most in the history of the organization.

*The annual Lunar New Year celebration held in February in conjunction with the Chinese Benevolent Association of Portland was the most successful and well-attended over. Over 1,000 people attended the ceremony and dragon dance program held at the Oregon Historical Society.

*The Oregon Statehood Day celebration on February 14 drew the normal standing-room only audience to OHS.

*The most recent issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly which was published in December 2019 is a special issue focusing on the topic of the white supremacy in Oregon history and the resistance to it. The issue has received wide attention and has started many discussions around Portland and across the state.

*Committee member Harrison and others praised the publication and urged OHS to provide it to school and libraries in Portland and across the state, and to make it as widely available as possible. Tymchuk confirmed that OHS was doing so and that the popularity of the issue was leading to a second printing.

*Representatives of the East County reported that their facilities were also closed to the public, and would remain closed until allowed to re-open.

*Meeting attendees shared reflections on how they are handling the COVID-19 restrictions.

*Co-Chair Schumann adjourned the meeting at 11:15a.m.