

Multnomah County Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes of February 10, 2021 Meeting
Meeting Held By Zoom

Co-Chair June Schumann called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m. and welcomed committee members. LOC Members attending were: Co-Chair Schumann, Co-Chair Diane McKeel, Carl Abbott, Marc Brown, Jennifer Burns, James Harrison, Phillip Hillaire

Co-Chair Schumann recognized Anna Marie Allen, Policy and Engagement Advisor for Multnomah County Chair Kafoury for an update on the levy renewal process.

Allen reported that the Multnomah County Commission is taking the legal steps necessary to place a renewal of the levy on the May 18, 2021 ballot. Ballot language is likely to be identical to the renewal language of the May 2016 levy. Co-Chair Schumann emphasized the importance of maintaining the language requiring OHS and the four east county history organizations to sponsor exhibits and programs that represent the diversity of Multnomah County's population. Allen also introduced David Kerry, who is with Chair Kafoury's office, and will assist in providing staff support to the levy committee.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Mark Moore, Executive Director of the Gresham Historical Society, for a report. Moore detailed the activities of GHS during the pandemic, which included being open to the public when allowed by state mandates and guidelines; repacking 6,000 artifacts in accordance to archival standards, and updating technology. Moore reported that the levy funds have been critical over the past years in allowing GHS to hire an executive director, operate and improve their website, creating a "Diversity of Gresham" exhibit, and offering a variety of programs aimed at students and adults.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Marille Thompson and LeAnn Stephens of the Troutdale Historical Society for a report. Thompson and Stephens reported that the levy funds have been instrumental in the creation of a reserve fund, which they have relied upon during the pandemic. Other recent activities of THS include curation and assesment of their collection, publication of a member newsletter, and a popular "King of the Roads" exhibit. Plans for the coming months include replacement of windows at the museum.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Chuck Rollins of the Crown Point Historical Society. X reported on the continued progress in the construction of a new 5,000 square foot museum which will document the history of the Crown Point area, including the Native American trails. X reported there is strong support in the Crown Point area for the new building and gratitude for the levy funds that have helped to make it possible.

James Harrison asked if the new museum was making efforts to ensure that it would be accessible to those with disabilities. X reported that it would be ADA compliant.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Peggy Olin of the East County Historical Organization (ECHO). Olin reported on ECHO's work to care for their properties, which include the Heslin House and the Zimmerman House. A priority for the coming months is to paint the Zimmerman House, a project which is expected to cost approximately \$8,000.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. Tymchuk was joined by Eliza Canty-Jones, OHS Director of Community Engagement, in a slide-deck presentation detailing the program, exhibits, and ongoing work of OHS over the past months of the pandemic. Tymchuk and Canty-Jones reported that OHS has greatly expanded their on-line and digital assets and programs during the pandemic. These assets, including the Oregon Encyclopedia and the Oregon History Project receive over one million visitors annually. With the museum and research library closed to school visits during the pandemic, OHS has reached out to teachers with history curriculum and seminars. Canty-Jones reported that the 2019 issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, which was devoted to articles and essays on Oregon's history of white supremacy and the resistance to it is now in its third printing. OHS is making the entire issue available at no cost on the OHS website. Tymchuk reported that OHS is making plans to add a permanent exhibit focused on the history of the City of Portland.

Co-Chair Schumann asked what the process would be for increasing the amount of levy funding allotted to the east county historical organizations should the voters approve the levy renewal. Allen reported that would be done in a written agreement between the county and OHS.

Co-Chair Schumann thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:55p.m.