

Multnomah County Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
June 26, 2020

Co-Chair June Schumann called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. Attending virtually via Zoom or telephonically were Co-Chair Diane McKeel, committee members Chevonne James, Jennifer Burns, Phillip Hillaire, Carl Abbott, James Harrison, Janice Dilg, Kristin Tiegen. Representing the Oregon Historical Society were Kerry Tymchuk, Eliza Canty Jones, and Sheri Neal. Representing Multnomah County were Anna Marie Allen and Raffaele Timarchi.

Co-Chair Schumann thanked everyone for attending. She then called upon OHS Executive Director Tymchuk for his report:

Director Tymchuk reported the following:

*Pursuant to the Governor Brown's COVID-19 order, OHS closed to the public on Saturday, March 14, and has remained closed since. Under the guidelines recently announced by the Governor and the guidelines set by Multnomah County, institutions like OHS will be allowed to re-open with certain requirements in the coming weeks. OHS is targeting Saturday, July 11 for a public re-opening.

*Tymchuk summarized the re-opening mandates and guidelines, and detailed how OHS will be complying with them to provide the best possible protection for staff and visitors. Suggestions on additional safety measures and how to publicize and enforce them were offered by committee members.

*Tymchuk and Canty-Jones detailed the "Nevertheless They Persisted" exhibit which the public will be allowed to visit upon re-opening. Final work is also being done on "We Are The Rose City," an exhibit detailing the history of soccer in Portland, to ready it for the public re-opening.

*Tymchuk shared the news that "Experience Oregon," the new permanent exhibit that opened in 2019 was the recipient of two national awards for excellence—one from the American Association of State and Local History, and one from the American Museum Association. He also shared the news that two Oregon students—including one from the Portland School District—won the National History Day Documentary competition for the 2nd straight year. Their documentary told the story of Minoru Yasui.

*Tymchuk and Canty-Jones discussed the ongoing interest in the OHQ special issue on the history of white supremacy in Oregon.

*Tymchuk reported on the record number of visits that are being made to the OHS website and to their digital assets, such as the Oregon Encyclopedia.

*Tymchuk reported on the increasing number of virtual programs being offered by OHS, including a presentation by historian Henry Louis Gates on October 27.

*Tymchuk reported that OHQ had engaged former state senator Margaret Carter to conduct a “DEIA Audit” of OHS. A copy of that audit will be provided to committee members.

*Co-Chairs Schumann and McKeel and committee members offered their best wishes to Anna Marie Allen, who will be on maternity leave from the county beginning June 26.

*Co-Chair McKeel adjourned meeting at 11:05.