

MEETING MINUTES

Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) January 11, 2013 – 1:00PM – 3:00PM

LOC members present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Avel Gordly▪ Carl Abbott▪ Ivette Rivera-Guisti▪ June Arima Schumann▪ Liz Fuller▪ Nichole Maher▪ Rob Brading▪ Sandy Polishuk	LOC members absent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Armando Manalo▪ Bob Speltz▪ Elizabeth Carroll▪ Laura Bridges-Shepard▪ Mary Margaret Wheeler Weber▪ Matthew Wand	Other participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Emerald Walker, Chair Cogen's office▪ Kerry Tymchuk, OHS▪ Eliza Canty Jones, OHS▪ Geoff Wexler, OHS
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Materials provided before and during meeting:

- Meeting notice (posted online prior to meeting)
- Minutes from 1st year (posted online throughout the year)
- Annual report from 1st year (posted online from June, 2012, report)
- Meeting agenda (below)
- Levy financial calculation for January, 2013, payment (posted online)
- Materials provided by OHS: exhibit announcements, press release, updated attendance figures (posted online)

Agenda as planned:

1:00 (5 minutes)	Welcome and agenda review	LOC Co-Chairs Nichole Maher and Senator Avel Gordly
1:05 (15 minutes)	Report from OHS on the last 6 months	Kerry Tymchuk, OHS
1:20 (30 min)	Debrief of LOC year one (minutes for each meeting provided)	All
1:50 (30 min)	Looking ahead: Goals for LOC year two	All
2:20 (15 min)	The year ahead in meetings: Who, what when, and where?	All
2:35 (10 min)	Public Comment	
2:45	Adjourn	

(Meeting began at 1:00PM)

Welcome and agenda review:

- Avel Gordly and Nichole Maher welcomed the committee and other attendees, and reviewed the agenda

Report from OHS on last 6 months:

- Attendance is up 60-70% from where it was at this time last year
- Membership has held steady – which is remarkable given that attendance is now free to Multnomah County residents
 - This is partially credited to OHS lowering the cost of Multnomah County memberships
- The Library has seen a shift in attendance – getting more “drive by” visitors – that is, people attending the library just to browse and explore rather than for specific research
 - They now have a photo archivist who is charged with scanning images for online access (OHS has 2.5 million images)
- OHS was able to secure the Joel A. Weston Memorial Fund grant (again) that pays for school busses for student field trips
- OHS has been focusing more on Title I schools – direct mailing, and having their volunteers actually go to the schools
- There has been an notable increase in submissions to Oregon Quarterly
- Discussion of upcoming exhibits and events:
 - Oregon Black History Series
 - Tough by Nature
 - Displaying of the Congressional gold medal for the 442nd
 - Tom McCall
 - Origami exhibit
 - In the works: recognition of 150 years since Emancipation Proclamation – displaying some of Pete Mark’s collection of presidential history
- Personnel changes:
 - Marcia Matthews is retiring from her position as Director of Museum Services and Education
 - Brian J. Carter has been hired out of Seattle – OHS is very excited about this, as Mr. Carter is very reputable in the field
 - 2013 budget will include more money for staff training and development
- The board of OHS is looking toward the end of the levy, and is thinking about how to ensure financial stability for the organization in years to come
- There has been some development on the board to reflect geographic, racial and gender diversity

Debrief of LOC year one and looking ahead:

- Nichole Maher asked each committee member to reflect on the following questions in debriefing the LOC’s first year of work:
 - Areas where we’re “not there yet”
 - Areas where we could be stronger
 - Things we’ve done really well
- The LOC’s reactions were as follows:

- The LOC has established a positive working relationship with OHS, and appreciates that
- The LOC has accomplished its technical job – which is important
- Co-chairs have led productive, high level meetings
- The committee is diverse, but there's a desire to grow that: "its hard to speak about race when you're the only one"
- The committee has appreciated staff assistance from Multnomah County
- There is some concern around members that rarely attend meetings
- There is understanding that the funding for the library is gradual, but there is a desire for more to be done there
- The committee would like to see the discussion shift to sustainable funding plans for OHS

The year ahead in meetings and next steps

- The LOC reviewed its annual obligations
- The committee would like to hold a longer meeting in April, and provide its annual presentation to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners in June
- In April's meeting, the LOC will hear updates from OHS and the 4 east Multnomah County historical societies
- OHS is going to schedule another tour of the vault – LOC members will be invited
- Emerald Walker will get back to the LOC regarding whether its legal for OHS to gift memberships
 - ***This was followed up on, and the legal answer is as follows:*** *The LOC members are public officials as volunteers and board appointed advisory committee members (Res 2011-048, ORS 244.020(14)). As such, they are subject to the ethical rules and are prohibited from accepting gifts in excess of \$50 per year from a group with an administrative or legislative interest in their work. ORS 244.020(6). OHS has a legislative and administrative interest in the operations of the LOC. A yearly membership to the OHS is \$60 and exceeds the maximum allowable gift.*
- Emerald Walker will coordinate with LOC co-chairs on reaching out to membership regarding attendance and desire to stay on the committee

There was no public comment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM