

# MEETING MINUTES

## Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC)

April 17, 2013 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

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

### Materials provided before and during meeting:

- Meeting notice (posted online prior to meeting)
  - Meeting agenda (below)
  - Draft annual reporting templates (for east Multnomah County historical societies and OHS)
- 

### Agenda as planned:

2:00 (5 minutes)	<b>Welcome and agenda review</b>	LOC Co-Chairs Nichole Maher and Senator Avel Gordly
2:05 (20 minutes)	<b>Report from OHS on the last 3 months</b>	Kerry Tymchuk, OHS
2:25 (10 min)	<b>Review of annual reporting requirements</b>	Emerald Walker, Multnomah County
2:35 (1 hour)	<b>Discussion of plan to meet requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• East Multnomah County organizations</li><li>• Audit review</li><li>• Report to the Board of County Commissioners</li></ul>	All
3:35 (10 min)	<b>Next steps</b>	All
3:45 (15 min)	<b>Public Comment</b>	
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

(Meeting began at 2:00PM)

### Welcome and agenda review:

- Co-chairs opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda

## **Review from OHS on the past three months:**

- Kerry introduced Brian Carter, new Museum Director
  - Remarks from Brian:
    - Loves the organization
    - Impressed by great momentum and energy
    - Is interested in creating a more community driven museum – inclusive of all and sharing everyone’s history
- Facilities improvements:
  - Transforming the front gallery – got a 200k grant from Meyer for deferred maintenance (carpet)
  - Upgraded lock on the OHS Vault
- Exhibits and highlights:
- Just closed up “Tough By Nature”
- Centennial of Tom McCall – Brent Walth did a road show across the state on the topic
- Black History Series: “All Aboard” – Portland AA and railroads
- Coming soon – “For All The World To See” images of the civil rights era – exhibit funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Public showing of the Mark Family Collection of presidential history
- OHS selected as a stop for the Smithsonian tour of congressional gold medal awarded to Japanese American WWII soldiers – August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Exciting collection update: OHS is in talks with the Skanner to preserve the entirety of their photo archive
- History Maker’s Gala will be this fall (for honorees each year):
  - Class of 2013: Pendleton Wool Mills, Pete Mark, Alberto Salazar, Bernie and Bobbie Foster
- Library update:
  - Online resources coming together – especially the Oregon Encyclopedia (unlike Wikipedia, this is always factual and content is managed by scholars)
  - Book sale this Saturday – donations from libraries

### **Fiscal health:**

- OHS is currently debt free
- Ticketed events present opportunity for membership drive – membership has held steady and is starting to increase
- State funding: in the Governor’s budget – not a lot – 7% of OHS budget, but they’re thankful
- In negotiations for the sale of the building next door: The Sovereign (OHS doesn’t intend to be landlords)
  - Money will be stowed away as a nest egg for any programs that can’t get grant funded
- Audit will be shared with the LOC once the board of OHS approves it (this happens on May 18<sup>th</sup>)

### **Questions/discussion:**

- Senator Gordly asked about granting scholarships to students of history (perhaps through PSU)
  - OHS: No, but that’s interesting... Sterling research fellowship

- Rose Tucker Fellowship - continued to stay in the dean's budget
- Brian – would like to start some curatorial internships
- Lots of barriers – get people working the museum field
- Membership – still seeing increase
- Avel is best advocate
- Excited about summer of citizenship – is there a way to link speakers to cable TV?
- Rob Brading to follow up
- Nichole – Meyer trust loves to fund this stuff
- Avel – opportunity to include voices of color
- Lew
- Annabelle
- People of color in elected and appointed roles
- LGBTQ community – challenges around equal rights – historical perspective
- Suggestion – George Nichola
- Kerry – compression continues to play a role
- Library measure will play a role
- Emerald presented reporting requirements
- Group discussed how to go about gathering
- E Co orgs
- Visited some of the museums – June
- Emerald to organize tour of all
- Scheduling survey
- Rob Brading – there's stuff going on in Gresham
- Form and tour
- Room specifically to respond to question re: diversity
- Take the language from the levy – how are you doing that?
- Specifically – what are you doing to represent Oregon's diverse communities
- Expand their vision of who their “public” is

- OHS report to LOC this information
- OHS get answers by 1<sup>st</sup> week of May
- Emerald – number the performance measures
- June – are we maintaining, are there increases or changes
- Committee could have a conversation about “so what”
- Get more qualitative
- Short sentence or two in...
- Elizabeth – membership – unintended consequences
- Survey for programs?
- Sustainability – how to do keep people coming in?
- Receive report online
- Email comments to Emerald
- From that process – we finalize report
- Overarching concern about moving forward
- Future focused
- Opportunity together to build a plan for sustainable funding together
- As many members as possible to attend board meeting in June
- Secure a date in June
- Schedule tour of the vault and E Multnomah County – Saturday in the summer

## **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 44<sup>th</sup>
  - 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**