

# MEETING MINUTES

## Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) May 24, 2012

<b>LOC members present:</b>	<b>LOC members absent:</b>	<b>Other participants:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Avel Gordly</li><li>▪ Nichole Maher</li><li>▪ Rob Brading</li><li>▪ Elizabeth Carroll</li><li>▪ June Arima Schumann</li><li>▪ Mary Margaret Wheeler-Weber</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Armando Manalo</li><li>▪ Carl Abbott</li><li>▪ Liz Fuller</li><li>▪ Ivette Rivera-Guisti</li><li>▪ Sandy Polishuk</li><li>▪ Laura Bridges-Shepard</li><li>▪ Bob Speltz</li><li>▪ Matthew Wand</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Emerald Bogue, Chair Cogen's office</li><li>▪ Sean Files, Office of Commissioner McKeel</li><li>▪ Chuck Rollins, Crown Point Country Historical Society</li><li>▪ Dodi Davies, Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society</li><li>▪ Dorothy Douglas, Gresham Historical Society</li><li>▪ Sheryl Maydew, Troutdale Historical Society</li></ul>

### **Materials provided before and during meeting:**

- Meeting notice and previous meeting minutes (posted online)
- Meeting agenda (below)
- Draft memo and report from LOC (below)
- Reports from 4 east Multnomah County historical societies (posted online)

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### **Agenda as planned:**

- Welcome, introductions and agenda review
- Review of reporting requirements and important dates
- Discussion with east Multnomah County historical societies (all 4 in attendance)
- Discussion: Annual Levy Oversight Committee report to Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- Wrap up and next steps
- Public comment
- Adjourn

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### **(Meeting began at 12:30 PM)**

#### **Welcome, introductions and agenda review**

- Because the four east Multnomah County historical societies were present, Co-Chairs opened the meeting with a round of introductions.
- Avel Gordly acknowledged the passing of LOC member, Dr. Richard Harris, and the many roles he played in the community. He will be missed.
- Co-Chairs reviewed the agenda.

## Review of reporting requirements and important dates

- Emerald gave a quick overview of annual reporting requirements and important dates:
  - The east Multnomah County historical societies are required to make a report to the LOC once annually (took place in this meeting and in written reports)
  - The LOC is required to make an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners regarding OHS compliance with promises made in the ballot language (taking place through a board briefing on 6/19 and a written report)

## Discussion with east Multnomah County historical societies (all 4 in attendance)

**NOTE: See attached reports and materials provided by east Multnomah County historical societies**

### Crown Point Country Historical Society:

- Chuck Rollins went over attached written report and shared a story that ran in the [Gresham Outlook: "Corbett group restores works of gorge artist"](#), and that this funding has helped them begin negotiations for a new site for their museum (collections currently on display at a local market), as well as expand their collection.
- Pre-levy capacity was between \$3,000 and \$4,000 each year.
- Highlight: Providing scholarship for local kids who want to do historical projects (\$100).

### Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society:

- Dodi Davies went over the attached written report, and shared that their intention is to first take care of the most urgent matters (building issues), and then engage in a deeper exercise to plan for the levy funds to be spent in the best possible way (they made the decision to save half).
- Pre-levy capacity was between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each year.
- Highlight: They are saving for a re-build of a climate-controlled storage space.

### Gresham Historical Society:

- Dorothy Douglas went over the attached written report and shared that the levy funds have helped them hire a part time collections manager and to plan for the construction of a new warehouse.
- Pre-levy capacity was \$6,000 - \$8,000 each year.
- Highlight: The Children's Reading Corner.

### Troutdale Historical Society:

- Sheryl Maydew went over the attached written report and shared that the levy funds have been used to take care of much needed deferred maintenance to the museum buildings.
- Pre-levy capacity was roughly \$9,000 each year.
- Highlight: This funding allows them to continue educational tours.

All historical societies were asked to discuss steps they are taking to reflect the diversity of their communities in their collections and outreach.

- All four historical societies spoke honestly to the fact that they have been so focused on survival (most have major building issues – or lack thereof), that they are just now starting to look at this issue in earnest.
- All expressed commitment to doing all they can, and for this being an ongoing process.
- All expressed a willingness to seek feedback and ideas from the LOC and each other.

## Discussion: Annual Levy Oversight Committee report to Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Emerald presented the memo and chart below: Highlighted in **yellow** are areas where the LOC identified needing more information from OHS

### MEMO

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissions  
From: Avel Gordly and Nichole Maher, Co-Chairs of the Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee  
CC: The Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee, Kerry Tymchuk  
Date: 6/29/2012  
Re: Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners

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As Co-Chairs of the Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee, we are delighted to report back to you on our first year's work.

Our committee's main charge has been to ensure that the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) is following through on promises made in the voter approved Measure 26-125: Five-Year Levy: Oregon Historical Society Library, Museum, educational programs.

Our additional responsibilities are laid out in the Financial Agreement between Multnomah County and the Oregon Historical Society. They are as follows:

- Meet at least semi-annually. ***(We have met enthusiastically six times since our creation.)***
- Provide minutes from our meetings on the Multnomah County website. ***(Meeting minutes and materials have been consistently posted following our meetings.)***
- Receive a report of levy expenditures from OHS and each of the four east Multnomah County historical societies receiving levy funds. ***(We have received these reports – see attached.)***
- Provide an annual briefing to the Board of County Commissioner regarding OHS compliance with the voter-approved measure.

The receipt of this report completes our fulfillment of these annual responsibilities.

Our committee has worked to clearly identify the promises made to voters in Measure 26-118. We have prepared the attached document to track our assessment of OHS compliance with such commitments in fiscal year 2012.

It is our pleasure to represent the good work of this committee, and we commend OHS for their participation and progress made in the last year. We're looking forward to our ongoing collaboration.

<b>Ballot language from voter-approved Measure 26-118</b>	<b>LOC assessment of OHS compliance in FY 2012</b>
This Multnomah County local option levy will keep the Oregon History Museum open 40 hours a week	The Oregon History Museum is open 40 hours a week. <b>Need: pre-levy hours and post levy hours</b>
and the Library open to the public 32+ hours a week	The Library is open 32+ hours a week. <b>Need: pre-levy hours and post levy hours</b>
avoiding closure and restoring cuts to service.	The Oregon Historical Society is open and has restored some cuts. <b>Need: Summary of exactly which cuts have been restored</b>
It supports curation for the museum so that exhibits can be rotated and the collection and protection of Oregon's historical artifacts and documents can continue	Levy funds have supported the basic functions of OHS – curation and exhibit rotation are indeed part of that.
Levy funds will also protect the collection of Oregon history documents and artifacts, and public access to those, at four East Multnomah County Historical Societies which together will receive \$150,000 of the levy each of the five years.	The four east Multnomah County historical societies are planning for and taking steps to protect and grow their collections while also expanding access.
OHS levy funds shall be allocated in a manner that represents Multnomah County's diverse cultures.	The issue is of the utmost importance to the LOC, and is central to many discussions that have taken place over the last year. The committee is proud of the working relationship formed with OHS on this topic, and is committed to being partners in growing OHS's capacity in this way. <b>Need: Details around culturally specific investments and decisions over the past year.</b>
The levy supports continuation of educational programs including free admission for every schoolchild to visit the museum and for all county residents - providing access to those previously unable to visit due to cost.	School children are able to visit OHS free of cost. <b>Need: Details on free visits for school children – which schools have come?</b>

Free admission to Multnomah County residents	Multnomah County residents have free admission. Need: Details on how OHS implemented this. Need: Details on outreach around this (billboards, etc.)
The Multnomah County Chair will appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County’s diverse communities - to review all levy expenditures and ensure dollars are spent as promised.	Resolution 2011-048 appointed the Levy Oversight Committee on April 28, 2011.
In addition, Multnomah County will select an auditor for which OHS will pay to conduct annual audits of levy funds that will be made available to the public.	Chair Cogen will select this auditor on behalf of Multnomah County.
This levy will fund nearly one-half of operations at OHS facilities.	This levy funds _____% of operations at the Oregon Historical Society.
Other funds come from admissions, grants and private donations.	OHS has continued its other fundraising efforts. Need: Details of other fundraising efforts.
To consistently provide the services promised to the voters, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will consider termination or reduction of the levy if the State of Oregon restores funding to OHS.	While OHS has received one-time support from the state of Oregon, sustainable funding has not been restored. Need: Details on funding strides made in the last year.

**Wrap up and next steps**

Emerald agreed to take the following steps to finalize the report:

- Get information from OHS for report
- Send report out for final approval from LOC
- Arrange agenda for LOC report to Board of County Commissioners on June 19<sup>th</sup>

**Public comment**

None

**Adjourn**