

Summary of questions answered and remaining

Actual ballot language	Information needed from OHS as a starting point for LOC	Answers provided	Notes on further information needed
<p>This Multnomah County local option levy will keep the Oregon History Museum open 40 hours a week</p> <p>and the Library open to the public 32+ hours a week</p>	<p>Information on hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have they been on average? • What are they now? • How do you factor in holidays? 	<p>LOC has seen information on hours for both library and museum.</p> <p>LOC has discussed current hours, accounting for holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OHS Museum and Library are now functioning as promised in this part of the ballot language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC is satisfied with information provided.
<p>avoiding closure and restoring cuts to service.</p>	<p>Information on how OHS is thinking about restoration as it pertains to what this levy will help them do.</p>		
<p>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</p>	<p>Information on recent, current and future plans for curation and rotation (including all facilities).</p>	<p>LOC has seen tentative exhibit schedule.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC would like to know if this is all that is planned for the time being. ▪ LOC would like to know what OHS's plan for protection of collection is. ▪ LOC will review the Strategic Plan for additional information on this.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Need a presentation from each of the four organizations about what they do now and what they're planning to do with levy funds.</p>	<p>N/A for OHS – need to schedule a presentation from E. Co. orgs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC discussed need to have these organizations present their plans and outcomes in spring of 2012.
<p>OHS levy funds shall be allocated in a manner that represents Multnomah County's diverse cultures.</p>	<p>Need to know how OHS thinks and acts on their commitment to diversity currently, and what the plan is moving forward. This discussion can be coupled with the strategic plan discussion. Also need to see an organization chart for OHS.</p>	<p>LOC has seen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization Chart Strategic Plan Information on diversity of staff and board 	<p>LOC would like to know how OHS is incorporating diversity/equity into the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exhibits ▪ Collections ▪ Publication ▪ Leadership on staff and board ▪ Community engagement and partnerships ▪ School outreach and engagement
<p>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.</p>	<p>Need to know how OHS is thinking about this now – see questions in left column – we need to know answers to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All schoolchildren free? ▪ How is OHS thinking about fulfilling this commitment? ▪ How will OHS distinguish between schoolchild and school groups? 	<p>Discussion focused on equal access for all schoolchildren to OHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OHS showed the manner in which Multnomah County residents are going for free. 	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Done.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC is satisfied with the composition of their committee.

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<p>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.</p>	<p>Need to see the last audit, know when it was done and have a discussion about how auditor is chosen.</p>	<p>LOC has seen last OHS audit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC would like Steve March, Multnomah County Auditor, to help.
<p>This levy will fund nearly one-half of operations at OHS facilities.</p>		<p>LOC has seen audit that includes all financial information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC would like to see Levy funds broken down as a special line item
<p>Other funds come from admissions, grants and private donations.</p>		<p>LOC has discussed OHS’ need to not rely solely on levy support. Kerry Tymchuk reported that they received 1-time support from the state to pay off balloon payment for storage facility in Gresham (as a step). OHS is continuing all efforts to raise money.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		<p>Discussion focused on how LOC would define “restored funding”. Kerry Tymchuk reported that they received 1-time support from the state to pay off balloon payment for storage facility in Gresham (as a step). LOC does not believe this qualifies as “restored funding”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOC would like to be kept up to speed on OHS’s long term strategy to thrive ▪ The Strategic Plan is the result of many months of work – is there a plan to revisit this and revise it as needed so that it’s a “living document”?

See additional questions from LOC members following review of strategic plan:

- Objective 1.1: Is the multi-year exhibit plan completed? I remember there were some discrepancies between the one found in the SP and the one sent by email before our last meeting. In addition, the plan as found in
- Attachment I doesn't seem to meet Action Step 1.5.3: "create a diverse exhibit and public programming plan...for various target markets...reflective of the Oregon demographic by end of 2012." Here I would also like to ask what are these "target markets"? This action step is vague.
- Public programs: for example, the Hatfield Distinguish Historians Forum for this year although interesting is also extremely narrow as it does not represent the diversity of the state in terms of topics and lecturers invited.
- Objective 1.8: No ethnic communities are listed in the Action Steps to build partnerships as stated in the objective. Why?
- Objective 2.2, Action Step 2.2.1, it is not clear whether the weaknesses in the collection have been identified or will be identified by 2013?
- Objective 5.1 Address service improvements under the...levy, Action Step 5.1.1a, measurements reference to AP 1.1.3 but there's not such AP 1.1.3 listed in SP?
- Objective 5.2 Review current staffing configuration...Action Steps 5.2.1 through 5.2.6, what's the status on these staffing plans?
- Objective 5.3, action step 5.3.1a: "Diversity added to the Board on an ongoing basis." it's not clear how the ED and Board plan to achieve this goal, what measures will they put in place to diversify the Board? And can they be specific on what is their understanding of diversity, what is a diverse OHS Board going to look like?
- Has the Board and ED discussed what is their own vision on expanding diversity within the organization? Action Step 5.3.2 provides for a hiring consultant to aid with diversity in advertising position but it is still unclear what is the OHS's concrete goal, i.e. percentage of minority staff goal? Same for board? Is there a benchmark for diversifying the staff and board?
- Where do levy funds appear in OHS's financial projection? (This is one of those things that I think was discussed but I can't dredge up the answer.)
- How do the *Revenue Projections 2011 to 2016* tie to the *Operating Financial Forecast 2011-2015*? (E.g., where do total project contributions appear in the forecast?)
- Why are several line items (e.g., Cost of Good Sold, Materials and Supplies, Travel and Training) flat through 2015?
- What are the fund raising levels based on? What experience or data backs up the development plan? What are revenue projections based on, particularly individual contributions and restricted grants and gifts? Are the grant projections realistic in an increasingly competitive environment?
- What's the post-levy financial plan? What's the plan for getting there?
- How are the financial projections tied to the strategic plan? (E.g., will the projected computer and network expenses adequately fund the social media and online objectives in the strategic plan?)
- I recollect that we talked about why there's a big increase in 2012 revenues but I don't remember the answer.
- Some more general questions about the strategic plan., questions that I think are common to most strategic plans. I know I find myself asking them about my organization's strategic plan.
- Given the size and complexity of the strategic plan, what are the priorities?
- The plan's introductory materials talk of the need to remake OHS. Are the programs that will do that adequately supported? For example, what resources are required to develop vibrant social media programs?
- Several of these programs appear to depend on grants. What happens to the programs if the grants don't come through?
- Will increased marketing result in increased visitation? What are the vehicles for outreach? How will they be used to reach underserved communities? What efforts will be made to reach out to schools and school districts with underserved populations?