

MEETING MINUTES

Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) December 16, 2011

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

Materials provided before and during meeting:

- Meeting notice (posted online)
- Chart of performance measures and remaining questions (see attached)
- Meeting agenda (below)
- Information provided by OHS for LOC:
 - Promotional materials re: exhibits, workshops and membership
 - OHQ content summary
 - Information on OHQ
 - List of schools that visited OHS ("X" next to where OHS provided a free bus)
 - Exhibit schedule 2012-13

Agenda as planned:

- Welcome and agenda review
- Updates and summary of last meeting
- Performance measures discussion with OHS staff
- Wrap up and next steps
- Public comment
- Adjourn

(Meeting began at 9:00 AM)

Welcome and agenda review:

- Avel Gordly and Nichole Maher opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda
- Round of introductions

Updates:

- Summary of last meeting – review of minutes

Performance measure discussion with OHS:

Kerry Tymchuk started the discussion with a summary of 2011 highlights:

- Levy allocation
- East Multnomah County historical societies received funding
- July 1st marked the first day of free admission for Multnomah County residents
- The OHS Library was restored to full hours
- \$200 million was secured to pay off the mortgage on the Gresham storage facility
- AAM reaccreditation took place in November

Geoff Wexler spoke about the OHS Library

- They hired two new positions – which has allowed Geoff to do the “behind the scenes” work that was otherwise stacking up
- They will be forming the OHS Library Advisory Council – to serve the entire state – open to suggestions on ensuring the pool of applicants is diverse

Eliza Cauty-Jones spoke about the Oregon Historical Quarterly (she is the Editor)

- OHQ seeks new information that provides new understanding of what has happened in Oregon’s past
- They are seeking out a wide range of stories
- Eliza provided a chart that tracks stories by year and which populations they come from
 - LOC very much appreciated chart
 - Eliza noted that the categories aren’t perfect
 - Eliza noted that they only track content – not the author
- There is an Editorial Advisory Board for OHQ – LOC held a discussion about the importance of diversity on that Board
- Eliza will become the Public Programming Manager for OHS - so she spoke some about current programs like History Pub, etc.

The conversation then moved to a discussion of how materials and stories and exhibits come to be:

- Suggestion re: Rutherford collection – OHS needs to form a relationship there
- Suggestion re: covering the historical significance of Senator Hatfield’s Accommodations Law
- Suggestion re: approaching interdisciplinary programs as they may have just as much historically significant material as History Departments
- Emphasis on relationships needed to make that happen (PCUN)
- LOC reviewed the list of upcoming exhibits and Marsha Matthews explained what goes into planning an exhibit – and how long it takes

How LOC can help OHS:

- Get the word out re: free admission for Multnomah County residents – LOC had some suggestions:
 - Skanner
 - El Hispanic News
 - Observer
 - Asian Reporter
 - Billboards?
 - Metro East Community Media (Rob Brading, LOC member – offered his assistance)

Next Steps:

- It was agreed that the next meeting should be about OHS communications and outreach to diverse populations with a focus on how the LOC can be helpful. This next meeting should also include a presentation from the East County historical societies.
- Meeting to take place in late March.