

# **MEETING MINUTES**

## **Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC)**

**May 18, 2010, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

<b>LOC members present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Armando Manalo</li><li>▪ Avel Gordly</li><li>▪ Bob Speltz</li><li>▪ Carl Abbott</li><li>▪ Elizabeth Carroll</li><li>▪ Ivette Rivera-Guisti</li><li>▪ June Arima Schumann</li><li>▪ Laura Bridges-Shepard</li><li>▪ Liz Fuller</li><li>▪ Mary Margaret Wheeler-Weber</li><li>▪ Nichole Maher</li><li>▪ Richard Johnson</li><li>▪ Rob Brading</li><li>▪ Sandy Polishuk</li></ul>	<b>LOC members absent:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Matthew Wand</li></ul>	<b>Other participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County Chair</li><li>▪ Emerald Bogue, Chair Cogen's office</li><li>▪ Chip Lazenby, Multnomah County Attorney</li><li>▪ Steve March, Multnomah County Auditor</li><li>▪ Kerry Tymchuk, OHS</li><li>▪ Sheri Neal, OHS</li></ul>
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### **Materials provided before and during meeting: (*attached*)**

- Meeting notice (posted on Board Clerk's website)
- Meeting agenda
- Important contact information
- Resolution 2011-048 – Creating the Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee
- Financial Agreement between Multnomah County and the Oregon Historical Society
- Ballot Language from voter-approved Measure 26-118
- Staff notes on performance measures
- Power point presentation re: documents, roles and responsibilities of LOC

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### **Welcome and Introductions:**

- Chair Cogen welcomed and thanked everyone for being there
- Each person introduced themselves
- Chair Cogen spoke again about the committee as the body that will oversee levy expenditures to ensure that OHS follows through on promises made in the ballot language
- Co-Chairs Nichole Maher and Avel Gordly spoke, and proposed a deeper introduction from each member and participant
- All members and participants introduced themselves and spoke about what drove their interest in the committee
- Co-Chairs asked Emerald Bogue to go over roles and responsibilities for the LOC

### **Review of documents, roles and responsibilities:**

- Emerald Bogue presented the attached power point that further explains

### **Review of performance measures:**

The group referenced notes prepared by Emerald Bogue and County Auditor Steve March. These notes were prepared as a starting point for the discussion of how ballot language can be translated to actual outcomes.

Note: the LOC didn't make it all the way through the ballot language – the highlighted portions of the chart below represent areas that have yet to be discussed

<b>Actual ballot language</b>	<b>Notes from LOC 5/18/11</b> <i>Decision was made to identify questions the LOC will need in order to perform reporting function.</i>	<b>Information needed from OHS as a starting point for discussions with LOC</b>
This Multnomah County local option levy will keep the Oregon History Museum open 40 hours a week and the Library open to the public 32+ hours a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What have the hours been on average?</li> <li>▪ Are there periods of holiday closure? (15 holidays in a year)</li> <li>▪ Who documents how many hours the museum and library have been open?</li> </ul>	<b>Information on hours:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have they been on average?</li> <li>• What are they now?</li> <li>• How do you factor in</li> </ul>
avoiding closure and restoring cuts to service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How will we decide how to define “restoring”?</li> <li>▪ Are we talking about hours or services?</li> <li>▪ Closure and services are different things.</li> <li>▪ Need to hear from OHS: what are the things that will be restored? How is OHS representing restoration as it pertains to these levy funds?</li> <li>▪ Committee wants to see Strategic Plan-OHS 101</li> <li>▪ Closure and services are different things</li> </ul>	Information on how OHS is thinking about restoration as it pertains to what this levy will help them do.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How will they report on the storage facility?</li> <li>▪ If there were cutbacks, we want to make sure they’re back at standard.</li> </ul>	Information on recent, current and future plans for curation and rotation (including all facilities).
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need an overview of what they do?</li> <li>▪ Schedule time for a quick presentation of who they are and what the do?</li> <li>▪ How do they operate?</li> <li>▪ What are their needs?</li> <li>▪ We need to be flexible – it’s a new opportunity for them</li> <li>▪ What is the nature of OHS’s partnership with these organizations? How can OHS help?</li> <li>▪ How will the equity/diversity language apply here?</li> </ul>	Need a presentation from each of the four organizations about what they do now and what they’re planning to do with levy funds.
OHS levy funds shall be allocated in a manner that represents Multnomah County’s diverse cultures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How will the spirit of this language be applied throughout the practices of OHS?</li> <li>▪ (strategic plan)</li> <li>▪ How will we identify a baseline here?</li> <li>▪ How does the institution report to all of MC’s communities?</li> </ul>	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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What changes are being made to meet the levy's mandate?</li> <li>▪ How does OHS define "diversity" as it relates to the community and their role as an institution?</li> <li>▪ What have you been doing? What have you done lately? And what is your plan moving forward?</li> <li>▪ What relationships exist that can strengthen this? (back and forth on this)</li> <li>▪ What does the organization look like? (AA, diversity, inclusion)</li> <li>▪ Need to have a diversity discussion</li>   <li>▪ If we're all paying for this, we need to have all our stories represented.</li> </ul>	
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ K-12?</li> <li>▪ All schoolchildren free?</li> <li>▪ How is OHS thinking about fulfilling this commitment?</li> <li>▪ How will OHS distinguish between schoolchild and school groups?</li> <li>▪ Any school group in the state of Oregon</li> </ul>	<p>Need to know how OHS is thinking about this now – see questions in left column – we need to know answers to all.</p> <p>←</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ K-12?</li> <li>▪ All schoolchildren free?</li> <li>▪ How is OHS thinking about fulfilling this commitment?</li> <li>▪ How will OHS distinguish between schoolchild and school groups?</li> <li>▪ Any school group in the state of Oregon</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Done.</li> </ul>	Done.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When was the last audit?</li> <li>▪ Needs to be available to LOC?</li> <li>▪ The board decides annually who will do the audit? Not necessarily on a RFP process</li> <li>▪ Not a lot of auditors that have the qualifications to do this</li> </ul>	Need to see the last audit, know when it was done and have a discussion about how auditor is chosen.
This levy will fund nearly one-half of operations at OHS facilities.		•
Other funds come from admissions, grants and private donations.		•
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.		•

## **Next steps:**

### Future meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: date TBD

- Will be at OHS
- Finish work of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (areas highlighted in yellow above)
- OHS 101
  - Strategic plan (should be finished before September)
  - Diversity discussion

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: date TBD

- Presentation from East Multnomah County historical societies (perhaps hold the meeting in East County)
- Back to performance measures

### Other business:

Committee members expressed interest in scheduling the following tours:

- East County historical societies
- OHS Vault

*Emerald Bogue will follow up with members interested in this*