

## Levy Oversight Committee Meeting Transcript

**March 3, 2022**

**Diane:** We had hoped that this meeting would include a tour of the Oregon Historical Society's storage facility in Gresham, but with all of the recent encouraging COVID news we're optimistic that our next meeting can happen there. We thought it wise to air on the side of safety, so we have one more virtual meeting. The purpose of today's meeting is to hear updates from each of the five historical organizations that receive funding from the levy and then we thought it might be helpful to receive a briefing on the digital assets of OHS. We will begin with an update from Gresham.

**Sue:** Hello everybody, I was recently elected as the president of the Gresham Historical Society. We officially opened yesterday after the fire. We have an exhibit of over 100 items that haven't been seen for over 20 years. We have a speaker series that we are starting again; May 15<sup>th</sup> will begin the speaker series with a lecture on a Japanese Internment camp, we have some people who are updating that for us.

**Kerry:** Congratulations on reopening

**Sharon:** I was wondering if they knew how attendance has been

**Sue:** Being as it just opened yesterday I can't speak to that, but we did a private soft opening on Monday with about 30 people... hopefully we will start seeing our numbers increase because of our special plans to bring people in for our Christmas event that brought in 800 people in 3 weeks.

**Diane:** Not only is Sue the president of the historical society but she's a Gresham city councilor as well so we're happy to have her. Next up is the East County Historical organization

**Peggy:** I just want to thank everybody for the levy money because we wouldn't be opening our doors without it... we are working on a fundraiser; our third annual car show fundraiser on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We had 100 cars last year and are hoping for more this year. The house has been open, we had it open through Christmas and had maybe 20 people per day Friday-Sunday. That's where we are, we do have a special exhibit coming in July, it's antique dolls. That's about it for us.

**Diane:** Next we'll hear from the Troutdale Historical Society.

**LeAnn:** We were open for about 6 weeks in July and then had to shut down again, with our re-opening happening at the end of April, which will coincide with our city's new visitor center which will be sharing our building. In the meantime, we are working towards getting the new exhibit ready. It will be pretty minimal because we want to show off the updates to the building. We're very excited to have people come back and see it, and we tried to bring it back to what it looked like originally based on the one photo we had. Then we're going to reopen the house and the exhibit hall at the same time, and we hope to get our volunteer docents back, a few we know are anxious to come back. We continue to work on our Cap assessment recommendations, which has to do with collection management and storing it properly and I have two wonderful curators working to inventory everything and they're finding a lot of treasures and trying to identify things. It's fun to see, so that's a huge project in the works. We have updated our POS system in our gift shop, and that's been positive and helps us with our online store and we are getting a lot more online sales. We're starting to ramp up again and we'll have our first in-person annual meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and that will be the first time we will all be together since the pandemic.

**Sharon:** And it's going to be on the history of Troutdale City Hall

**Diane:** I can't wait to see the renovated depot, that's going to be very exciting

**LeAnn:** Yes, please come and take a look.

**Diane:** Next up is the Crown Point Historical Society

**Sandy:** Good afternoon, I'm the treasurer for the group, and last fall we pretty much got the building secured as far as it's weather-tight on the outside portion, but then we found out our door wasn't coming yet, so I just heard it's arriving in the next couple of weeks, and then we can complete the siding. Our next thing is working on the inside portion and we're waiting for approval from the city of Gresham. This coming Sunday we're doing a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Marion Kirkham who lived in the community all his life and who passed away in November just before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and they're going to serve cake in his honor

**Kerry:** When do you think the facility will be open?

**Sandy:** We were hoping for the beginning of next year, but it's not moving quickly because of not being able to get the supplies we need. I'm thinking it's probably going to be pushed out now. We're also working on a couple of grants, so we're making headway.

**Libby:** In reading the report I was curious about the overrun due to fire insurance and the draught and I was just wondering how much that was and whether the increase in anticipation of issues or if something had in fact happened.

**Sandy:** We didn't have fire insurance if a fire comes through the community, so that what we were preparing for. We had the extra \$5,000 for insurance that covers the building and last summer we couldn't do a lot because of the draught.

**Diane:** Now our final report is from the Oregon Historical Society

**Kerry:** Visitors are returning more and more as time goes by. Our policy has been to comply with the state regulations so as of March 12<sup>th</sup> masks won't be required. We're going to be hearing a lot today about our digital assets and it shows how increasingly popular they have become. Visits in January were a 63% increase from last January and we have seen continuous increases since the pandemic has been going on. Look at the Oregon Encyclopedia, 100,000 visits in January, which would be over 1 million per year. It's always interesting to see what people are looking at on the website, and the most-viewed in January is "What We Can Learn from the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919" which has been on our website since April of 2020, almost 2 years and it's still one of the most popular places to stop. Next is our Hatfield Historians' forum which we are 2 lectures into with 2 more to come. Heather Cox Richardson, one of the nation's leading historians, is our next Hatfield lecture and there is a lot of excitement about her. Some of our exhibits, OHQ, footage of Mt. St. Helens, and the Fred Meyer story are all always popular; every Fred Meyer employee has to read the store's history on our website. Civil rights remain an important issue. As for our digital collections, these are some of our most popular ones. Glass Negatives of Early Portland Residential Scenes received some coverage on the Oregonian and TV news and people flocked to that page on our website. We are custodians of the Gay and Lesbian Archives, GLAPN. Vanport photographs, the exploding whale, and other items... 90% of users of our digital collections are in the US but it has reached 154 countries total, all 50 states plus Washington DC, and 139 different communities in Oregon. These are the top entries in the Oregon Encyclopedia. It was a big victory for the Oregon Trail because almost every month the top entry is Bigfoot.

There is a continuing interest in Black Exclusion Laws and the movie Animal House, and it's always interesting to see what people are looking at month after month. We are the sponsors of History Day...

**Eliza:** This is a really tremendous national program that helps students learn to do primary source research and analyze that research and put it into context through secondary source research and then they create projects. They create exhibits and documentaries and they write papers and do performances, and this slide is about the fact that we are recruiting volunteer judges. I see at least one former judge on the screen today, and the volunteer judges really do a lot of great work helping students to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their projects. Everything will be virtual again this year including the national contest, and if you participate here in Oregon and give feedback, the students take that feedback and oftentimes revise their projects before taking them on to the national contest, so it's a really influential opportunity for students to learn how to be historians and learn history. We'll provide training to judge and we would love for you to participate. This is our current issues of the Oregon Historical Quarterly on the Chinese Diaspora in Oregon, which is several years in the making. It is on the Chinese Diaspora in Oregon from about 1850 to 1943 which is the end of the federal policy of exclusion. It has stories from all over the state with a lot of different research methods and some transnational research, a lot of researchers actually went to the places in China where the people they were researching were from, and there is really fantastic new scholarship that puts this aspect back in the center of Oregon history where it belongs.

**Kerry:** Exhibits are coming in all the time. We partnered with Jobs with Justice for an exhibit honoring 30 Years of Solidarity which is on our Mezzanine Gallery until May 15. We also partnered with some wonderful nonprofits celebrating anniversaries: Morrison Child and Family Services does such good work for children in need and mental health issues, and another exhibit that is ongoing now is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Special Olympics Oregon called "Brace in the Attempt" which is here now through May. Also, opening tomorrow is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blanchet House, one of Portland's earliest soup kitchens and does such fantastic work for Portland. Travelling exhibits continue to move around. We honor the Life and Legacy of Senator Mark O. Hatfield, and that exhibit will be touring at PSU shortly... All of our travelling exhibits are free to other places in the state thanks to a wonderful grant from the Samuel Johnson Foundation. Nicole is going to speak a little later, but do you want to share about the quilt?

**Nicole:** As you probably know, the Afro-American Heritage Bicentennial Quilt was on display in October 2020 in the OHS Pavilion and it was stolen and returned following the Indigenous Day of Rage protests. It was heavily soiled with red dye or paint, it was soiled and we knew the best thing would be to send it for conservation by professionals. It was a long and costly process, but we just received it back in December and it's beautiful. There is a blog post about it on Dear Oregon where you can read about the history of the quilt as well as its conservation so we're thrilled that it's here.

**Kerry:** Our e-blast continues to be very popular—it goes out to over 20,000 people now every Thursday. One of our responsibilities under the levy is for an annual audit, and the auditors have been working in the last couple of weeks with CFO Sheri Neal to do the audit. It should be almost done and so far it's been a spotless audit and they'll have the final version sometime in late April or early May and we will be sending it out to everyone on the committee. March 26<sup>th</sup> is Minoru Yasui Day, where we celebrate the life and legacy of Minoru Yasui, the only Oregonian ever to receive the presidential medal of freedom for his actions as he stood against racism and

discrimination against Japanese American people after Pearl Harbor. OHS is proud to be a co-sponsor of the day and we'll be sending out more information about that.

**Eliza:** We'll have our popular Historians in the News program, which is free but you can make a donation. We'll be hosting Timothy Snyder for that on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and then we have our return to in-person programs on April 5<sup>th</sup> if you want to hear about Fredrick Law Olmstead. There is another one on April 9<sup>th</sup> about botanical art that goes with an exhibit that we have up right now as well as some teacher workshops and things, so we've got a lot going on.

**Kerry:** More and more we've had classes in the building for school tours, mostly they are private schools, and we are ready for school tours to continue coming back. As we talked about last meeting, we just opened up our museum portal and Nicole is going to take us on a deep dive through our portal.

**Nicole:** First let me just say thank you all for having me here, I love the portal and it has been my life for a few years so I'm so happy to finally be able to share it with people and talk about it. It's so easy: you go to [museumcollection.ohs.org](https://museumcollection.ohs.org), which we did to align with the digital collections website. Just to recap, the museum collection is different from the research library collection; as Deputy Museum Director, I am in charge of the three-dimensional objects as large as cars or as small as pens, while the research library is archival collections like manuscripts, books, and our audio-visual collection. What you will find on the portal is access to our three-dimensional objects. We have over 75,000 objects in the museum collection, and we launched in January with over 11,000 records available for you to browse. Today I'm going to take you on a little tour and show you how to find things that are of interest to you, and I guarantee you no matter who you are or what your interest is, you can find something here for you. Here's our landing page, where you can access the museum and other websites. If you are looking for books, manuscripts, etc. you can go to the research library catalog or the OHS Digital Collections website. You can type something in the search bar here, but I'm going to take you straight to the advanced search page, and this is where you can start doing a brain dump here. One of the things we did for February was that we entered in some African American material to celebrate Black history month, so you could just type in a keyword like that you can click search and it will bring up everything that has that as a keyword in its description. For instance, the Afro-American Heritage Bicentennial Commemorative Quilt is right here, and you will find information on its physical description, its provenance (how it came to OHS and the history of the object), why it's important to Oregon history, and a date. One thing I love about the portal is that you can click on an image and zoom in to see details. Some other things we added to the portal for Black history month are some materials from Curtis Hadley, who owned the first Black-owned bakery in Oregon, the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen. If you want to just see things related to their bakery, you can just click on that link and it'll show you all the things related to the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen specifically. You can hover over the whole list to get a quick look or on the object record to get more information. One thing I'd love to show you here is that if you think this mixing bowl is amazing, you can share this page by clicking on the share link and you can share it with anybody that you want to. I want to spend some extra time looking through the browse tab, but in this advanced search tab, you can search by date, by maker, and every single record on the portal will have an image, which is something we've spent a few years making sure of. Something to know about the portal is that this seed was planted years ago and we have been working tirelessly for the past 10 years to get our object records in a state that we were proud to share and that we thought would actually be helpful to researchers, scholars, and the general public, so my staff and I have been working on making sure those records have full descriptions, keywords, dates, and photographs.

Here we have our browse tab, which is my favorite. You can search the different collections. If you're interested in the Native North American collection you can click on the button. One thing we strive for with this collection is to have everything vetted by our indigenous partners to make sure they are appropriate for sharing and that there is no additional cultural care or knowledge that we should be aware of before sharing. All of these records have been vetted or were vetted previously for inclusion in our Experience Oregon exhibit. My favorite place to waste a weekend is in the browse by subject tab. Here is where we pre-loaded some lists of objects that we think would be of interest based on a specific search term or association, so whether that is the Rajneesh or perhaps the Oregon Trail, you click on the picture and it will take you to all of our records with that association. Experience Oregon is a great one if you can't make it to the exhibit, you can just click on the picture and you will see all of the museum objects in the exhibit. Kerry mentioned Minoru Yasui so I'd like to mention the Yasui brothers here; if you click on this subject link, you're going to get over 1,000 records associated with the Yasui Brothers' store. One thing about this particular subject is that our curator went through all of these records and transcribed notes from the family, so in the provenance you'll find some really interesting recollections from Homer Yasui about the objects on display. One of my favorites is a bread box—it was a bit controversial that a Japanese-owned store would be selling bread, and they didn't sell Holsum bread even though that's the brand on the box, they sold Franz, which is an Oregon-based bakery, and he talks about how he would hide in the breadbox. I want to mention that you can visit our help page if you are wondering how to access or share a record or how you can use an image, and of course if you find an error, please click this link and send a message to my team.

**Kerry:** One thing about Nicole is that she's not enthusiastic at all about what she does here, so we have to get her excited every day to come to work. We really are excited as Nicole said, this has been in the works for almost a decade and we're proud to open it with so many items and more being added all the time.

**Nicole:** I see your question in the chat, and the percentage of the collection that is in the portal is about 11,000/75,000, so more than 10%. We will be adding records to the portal regularly. All new acquisitions will go into the portal as they're processed, and you can actually find a list of those here. Every time we basically touch an object, whether that's for research or to put it on display, we make sure the catalog record is accurate and correct and we add it to the portal.

**Kerry:** Not that there's any competitions here, but Laura Cray is our digital services librarian and are you going to make the library as exciting as the museum?

**Laura:** I am going to do my best to try. This is the curse of going second, there is a lot of what Nicole said because our sites are fairly inter-operable in the core functionality of how they work, so I might skip over a few things that are very similar to what she described and I'll dive in more to some of the other details and our back-end processes. Thank you for inviting us to be here, I'm always excited to talk about or digital collections projects, our site, and the amazing ways it opens our collections up to the world. Digital Collections launched in 2017 and since then we have about 35,000 objects in our collection online. Unlike Nicole's 75,000 objects, we have some collections where there are 75,000 items in one single collection so we probably have less than 1% of our library collections online. We're doing our best to get as much as we can online as we go. I wanted to start by acknowledging that I'm here to represent myself but also Matt Deschaine who is our Digital Collections Manager and Rob Warren who is our Digital Services Photographer, and the three of us are the core of our team here. One of our main goals in setting up this site was to acknowledge that OHS reaches a really wide audience with a range of

research skills and interests, so we were really working to create a website built for really casual browsers as well as robust search engines so you can find exactly what it is that you need for your research. This is the main page of our site, we have our browse by features on the side, and we also have this “what’s new” feature that shows you the most recently uploaded objects we are working on. Right now I’m working on uploading maps from our rare maps collections and we are pretty regularly updating our oral histories as well. We aim to get new material up every Monday when our site refreshes and sometimes it’s a couple of items and sometime, it’s several hundred. If you’re interested in a more detailed search, you can use the search bar at the top and type in cannon beach for example and it’ll bring up collection items that have cannon beach in their information but also any name headings or physical locations related to cannon beach. Another cool thing is that we try to put a geographic coordinate for the heading as well so that things in our collection are geo-located for future use. They’re supposed to be on a map but Google changed the way Google maps works, so until we get that figured out it’s gone for now. Another way people can access our collections is through our project portals. A lot of the content gets added as either the result of a grant project which allows us to hire an archivist specifically to work on digitizing a collection or through our partners; a lot of our content, especially oral histories, is coming from the GLAPN and Immigrant History, both of which are doing good work to document the lives of Oregonians and we are a platform for hosting those and getting them out to the public. For a more in-depth example, there is a project that we wrapped up this year that allowed us to hire an archivist to process a very large collection of negatives—31 cubic feet and about 40,000 photographs in this collection. Our archivist was able to re-house the negatives for long-term storage and preservation as well as catalogue them and digitize almost 3700 objects from the collection. This collection spans mostly Portland topics but also a pretty wide range of mid-century topics. You can browse by date, scroll through photos, and you can click on it for the all of the information on it. We try to give really accurate copyright information if we know it. Similar to the museum portal, the images are high-resolution and you can zoom in and see the detail.

**Kerry:** A question from Scott in the chat: how many years will it take to process the backlog, and how many photos does OHS have and what percent have been digitized?

**Laura:** We have a very large collection at OHS; I don’t know if within our lifetimes if we will be able to have all of it digitized. I think the physical library—all of our collection is open to researchers if they want to walk in—honestly probably less than 1% of our library collections are digitized at this point. There are a lot of materials that because of physical condition, copyright concerns, etc., are not able to be put in digital collections. Part of the digital collections process is adding all the metadata so it can be interoperable on a national level. We’ve been operating for 125 years and that basically means that we have 125 years’ worth of different philosophies on collecting and describing and maintaining collections, so part of my job is to identify what that collection needs to bring it up to modern standards and what that allows us to do is tie into programs like the digital public library of America, which puts OHS’ collections on a national and international level in terms of how findable they are and how they’re picked up by researchers and digital history projects. We also have been doing a lot of back-end upgrades to make sure that our site is future-proofed, but there will be a time when it is outdated, but by investing in the digital production lab in 2019 we are able to do high-resolution imaging of bound materials and large-format objects which they couldn’t do at one point as well as the capacity to do film-scanning, so those are the kinds of materials that you’ll start seeing more of in our collection and you only need to do it once and then it can go back into storage. We also invested in this media player that we funded the development of and it now allows us to host those oral histories and

film footage in our collection site. One thing that is really cool about this is that it was developed for the entire platform so the other archives in the world that use this program have benefitted from the investment that we put into that player. Since we were on the subject of the percentage and the realities of how much of our collection you can put online, when collections are proposed for OHSDC we consider staff, especially if there's an exhibit or project coming up; researchers are able to email and request if there is something they would like to see and we can take it through the evaluation process. I have a rubric that we adopted that takes a collection, its historical significance, how it relates to what's already online, the current accessibility of use like those negatives where really prior to us taking that project on had very minimal access and required direct work with our photo archivist to help researchers find what they're looking for so that again makes it some pretty high-value collections, and then also things like copyright to kind of balance that out. We have a long queue of projects we are working on but we try to prioritize things that relate to ongoing exhibits, public programming, OHQ, and things like that. I'll wrap up by saying that it's been really gratifying to watch our digital collections grow. We've got some exciting projects coming up in 2022 so by all means keep checking back in and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

**Kerry:** Now the guardian of all things Oregon Encyclopedia, Amy Platt.

**Amy:** I run the digital history websites, and our work is dedicated to making the history of Oregon available to as many people as possible by working with historians, anthropologists, archeologists, writers, and other scholars to produce published scholarship on the web. We make good use of the Society's collections to tell that history and provide resources for teachers and students. At the moment, OHS has 3 websites in the digital history family and we're building one more right now: The Oregon Encyclopedia, the Oregon History Project, and the Oregon Wayfinder. If you go to ohs.org you can use the dropdown to find a lot of those things. The OE is structured in a standard encyclopedia format with short entries, which some of you here have written for us, that provide a comprehensive introduction to what we know about the people, events, etc. of Oregon. Our editorial process is modelled after peer-reviewed journals, so we solicit entries and choose authors based on their expertise. We do a fact-check, peer review, and then we edit the entry, and we are supported by an editorial board of scholars to review everything we've published and give us advice on product development and we are just short of 2,000 entries. There are a few ways to find an entry: we have this search box, you can explore A-Z, or you can search by theme. We have some featured on the OE page like women's history month right now and we're also focused on one of our authors, Dr. Kimberly Jensen, again for women's history month. The Oregon History Project is the oldest of the sites, developed back in 2002, and it was our first attempt to make digitized materials available online to students and teachers. It's made up of about 1,000 historical records with digitized documents and a few objects from the museum collection with annotations at the bottom to put them in historical context. There's also this narrative section, all written by Oregon historians, and we just updated these. All the scholarship in the OE and the objects and archival materials in the OHP are on a map called the Wayfinder. You can click the map, search, zoom... All of these sites work together; for example, I just published an entry on the assembly center in Portland today, and if you click you can read about the author and their expertise, these are photos from the OHS library collection, you can click on the digital collection and see an oral history. Most of our digital material is from the OHS collections but we also partner with outside organizations like UO. It also links related records on the OE, related articles in the OHP, and the Wayfinder. These sites are designed to make this information accessible and free to the public to raise the Oregon

history IQ of the public, and the internet is a great tool for doing that. QAs Kerry said, there's almost 1 million people per year who visit the site.

**Kerry:** Jan, I'll turn it back over to you.

**Jan:** I think it would be an understatement to say that online collections have fundamentally changed how, where, and when people can do research, and we had a lot of evidence of that during the pandemic, I know the national history day students were able to access things to do their projects in the last couple of years...

**Kerry:** James, I've seen you smiling, you're a user of the OE as well

Amy: James is on the OE board and he has written for us

Jan: I'll second the comment on the chat about that being a wonderful tour and we always look forward to new additions

Bill: I have a question: the data you showed at the beginning, Kerry, was about what people are looking for when they go to the site—is that information used to help boost what you're putting in, looking at what people are interested in and use that to feed more of that stuff? Is there a feedback loop?

Laura: I can't speak for the other groups, but for OHSDC we do look at the Google analytics, especially things people have typed in and gotten zero results for, because that indicates there is a research topic of interest that is not being met, so that's part of how I weigh which collection will make it in next, especially our internally-funded projects.

Nicole: For the museum, we just launched the portal in January and we do use Google Analytics, so it will be interesting to see what people are looking for there, but there is another feedback loop in that every time we handle an object our goal is to get it into the record and in the portal, so if we get research inquiries or it's on display we update the record so that it's on the portal.

Jan: If there's no other questions, I'll turn it over to Paul Park

Paul: I have 1 ½ quick updates: first, I spoke with the county and they encouraged me to work toward some bylaws for the Levy Oversight Committee, and I was provided with samples of what they could look like, so I worked with Kerry to incorporate some of his institutional knowledge of the committee's work to build that up. I'm heading into quite the busy season, but it will eventually be brought to the committee for review and for feedback and eventual adoption, and that's something you can look forward to in the next couple of months. The second thing, for those of you who were here last time, my colleague and our constituent relations coordinator can't be here today due to a medical emergency about a week and a half ago, so that's why he's not here today, we're all hoping he gets well soon.

Jan: Unless anyone has any other details or questions...

Bill: What about minutes?

**Paul:** Minutes are posted to the OHS Levy Oversight Committee webpage on the Multnomah county website—I can email everyone the link to that website so that we all have it.

**Scott:** Will the chat be included in the materials posted on the Multnomah County website? It has some good information, some links, some questions and answers

**Kerry:** Yes

**Scott:** I brought up at the last meeting that we had that we have meetings more often than twice per year, which is what has been previously, but I'm thinking maybe 6 meetings a year, every 2 months on average might be good. It wasn't put on this meeting's agenda, so I didn't realize I had to formally ask, so I am asking now if we can put that down as an issue to discuss in our next agenda—we can have a discussion and I can put forward the reasons I think it's a good idea. Along those lines, as a member of what I hope to be a functional committee and getting to know all of you for the next 4 ½ years, is I'd like for us to have a more relaxed dialogue between some of the members who have been here before and know the lay of the land, maybe that the newer members don't know, we could have a Q&A amongst ourselves to formulate where we want to go as a committee. Each committee can set a new direction, and I don't know what those directions are but I'd like to have an opportunity for us to decide what our interests are. One of those issues would be digitization—it sounds like it will take decades, and that's a challenge but we could get into some of the details about how digitization works for organizations, whether you need money, people, where you get those resources, and just start that conversation—it's obviously going to be with us for years to come. The other thing is measurables: when we got the reports back from the historical societies, there were some items that weren't necessarily equal, little items were missing here and there, so we could standardize the report, and then allow for a little Q&A, maybe in between meetings have a correspondence. Lastly, I'd like for us to consider making sub-committees, so in between meetings... an example would be a sub-committee on digitization, maybe there are other issues people similarly care about, but two or three people could be members who could separately meet and document however is appropriate according to the law, but continue to carry a more detailed conversation, and then we could come back to the committee and report back what we found and offer materials and links to educate not only ourselves but also other members of the committee, and whatever other committees form we could learn from as well. We can keep going down the line and maybe accelerate our learning curve instead of having a meeting once every six months or so. Thank you.

**Jan:** Paul or Diane, I don't know how this would even be considered, it seems outside the purview of what's currently in place for the function of this committee.

**Kerry:** Well we've already had 2 meetings in the last 4 months, and we're looking forward to one again in the next 2 months with the vault tour, so we're moving forward with definitely more than two meetings a year.

**Scott:** Hopefully we can keep that up, but we can formalize it by setting up meetings once every 2 months. Obviously, we could skip or add a meeting as needed. I think the committee itself can decide to have sub-committees; it's in the statute, we can pretty much do what we choose to do, we just need to have a discussion about it or some way to communicate between meetings so that we can get a little more information in preparation for the meetings.

**Diane:** I think this deserves a bigger discussion, because we are the Levy Oversight Committee, and according to the directive, we have parameters and we report back to the county commission, so I'm not sure how that would all work out... I'm not sure if the county commission has to have a voice in those changes or how that will work, so I think it deserves a bigger discussion around what are the guidelines within the levy language and how we move from there, or perhaps that's a different place to put those concerns. We appreciate you sharing all of that, Scott, but I think it deserves a bigger internal discussion before we try to set this up.

**Scott:** Thank you, can you and I work together to bring some questions forward to the Multnomah county attorneys so we can make sure we're in compliance with whatever laws we need to so that we get some good advice.

**Diane:** I appreciate that Scott, the co-chair Jan and I can have that discussion with the attorney, the county chair, and perhaps bring that back

**Jan:** I would also add that there is an entire committee of members that need to have some surveying done of their opinions and thoughts on more commitment or the ideas you've put forth, Scott, so there is additional work that needs to go into this before any decisions are made. So we've got at least one agenda items about more meetings and this broader discussion—do other people have things that have popped up that you'd like to see on the agenda for next time.

**Jennifer:** I just want to throw out there—this isn't an agenda item for the future but it might be additional information for Scott—I love all your enthusiasm about digitization and wanting to see these other organizations, just some background for you: I'm a director of a different museum outside of Multnomah county, but I live in Multnomah county, and I would really encourage you, if you want to see these organizations move forward with digitization, the best way to do it is to reach out to those organizations and see how you can volunteer and help—they need volunteers, they need money, and that is the best way to move them forward. This organization is really focused on whether these historical societies are meeting the definitions that have been laid out in the levy and I would encourage everybody to remember that OHS has a board that is running their day-to-day operations, and we do need to watch that we remember we're the levy oversight committee and that OHS has their own board.

**Kerry:** We'd be happy to have the next meeting at Gresham; we're certainly at a point where the May meeting could be in-person, and I know there are some members who are excited to go out there, so I can work with you and Paul to get an agreeable option of dates.

**Jan:** If anybody has any concerns about meeting in-person, you let us know while we're putting it together, but otherwise I think we ought to be good to go, and I know people are interested in heading to the Gresham facility last time... I see nods in the affirmative. If there's no other business, I'd recommend that we adjourn and see each other soon.

**Diane:** Thank you!