

## **Multnomah County History Levy Oversight Committee Minutes of Meeting of December 5, 2024**

Co-Chair Jan Dilg called the virtual meeting to order at 3:30p.m. The following LOC members were also in attendance: Co-Chair Jan Dilg, Libby Pruden, Elka Grisham, Bill Bennetts, Scott Forrester, and Jennifer Burns.

Co-Chair Dilg discussed the LOC annual presentation to the Multnomah County Commissioner on November, 12 2025. She reported that the Commissioners were highly complimentary of the presentations from the four east county history organizations and the Oregon Historical Society. She also gave an update on the new Multnomah County Commissioners who will take office soon. Commissioners are discussing appointing additional members to the LOC in early 2025.

Co-Chair McKeel also mentioned how well the presentation to the Multnomah County Commissioners was received.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Silvie Andrews, Executive Director of the Gresham Historical Society for a report. Ms. Andrews reported that 2024 is on track for the highest annual attendance since the pandemic, and the second highest annual attendance ever. She provided additional information on the many holiday activities ongoing at the museum, and on programs and exhibits scheduled for 2025.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Chris Garza, Executive Director of the Troutdale Historical Society for a report. Mr. Garza highlighted the many activities in 2024, including a good deal of repair and maintenance work, some of which will continue in 2025. Mr. Garza also highlighted a number of 2025 programs focusing on the history of diverse populations in the Troutdale area.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Sandy Cartisser for an update from the Crown Point Country Historical Society. Ms. Cartisser shared a number of photographs of the ongoing construction of the Crown Point Country Museum. The goal remains to open the new museum in summer or fall of 2025.

Co-Chair Dilg shared her excitement with all the impressive work that has been accomplished since the LOC toured the construction site in 2023.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Peggy Olin, Executive Director of ECHO for an update. Ms. Olin detailed the many holiday activities planned for ECHO. Ms. Olin also detailed plans for 2025, which include porch improvements.

Co-Chair McKeel recognized Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society for an update from the Oregon Historical Society. Mr. Tymchuk detailed upcoming programs, including the annual Holiday Cheer celebration of Oregon

authors and an open house celebrating the “Fountain of Creativity” exhibit. He also spoke about the June 2024 opening of the new “Rivers, Roses, and Rip City” permanent exhibit detailing the history of the City of Portland. He also detailed early planning to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Co-Chair Dilg again shared ongoing discussions with Multnomah County Commissioners to add new members to the LOC. She shared that Paul Knauls, Jr. has recently been appointed to the LOC, but was unable to attend today’s meeting.

Commission Chair Vega Pederson is also hoping for a tour of the east county organizations similar to the one given to Commissioners in 2024.

Co-Chair Dilg asked if all current LOC members were interested in continuing to serve on the LOC through the term of the current levy, which expires in May 2026. All LOC members indicated they would like to continue to serve.

Co-Chair Dilg also shared that Commissioner Stegmann expressed interest in increasing the amount of levy funds that are allotted to the four east county societies. At the inception of the levy in 2011, each east county organization received \$32,500 annually. That amount is now \$50,000 annually. Discussion followed with LOC members expressing support for increasing the annual allotment to the east county organizations. Co-Chairs Dilg and McKeel and Mr. Tymchuk will discuss a possible allotment increase with the Multnomah County Commissioners.

Co-Chair McKeel adjourned the meeting at 4:45p.m.