

Heritage Museum Advisory Board Minutes for July 9, 2025 – at the Heritage Museum
Call to Order and introductions – 6:31

Heath Lawson, Joe Martinez, Billy, Whisenant Jasper Smith, Vickie McCubbin and Amy Christensen, Museum Director present.

Marilyn Morton, Council Liaison and Kathleen Dingess Rice are both out of town. Ken Fetters is out ill.

Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2025 - motion to approve from Jasper and 2nd from Billy
Staff Reports – Amy –

10 volunteers to sign up from last Volunteer Fair

Polk IO – article with misinformation – Emmanuel putting out a correcting video.

The museum will remain a department, displays around town and with pop-ups, collection into storage, Amy will be housed in the library and in the Civic Center. Museum will be open through the end of December. Conversations ongoing with the City, 1.9 million dollars will be needed to expand the library building. Grants in the works – one for a shared intern with the Library and Museum, Oregon State Grant for Civic engagement will be applied for. More details in the Director’s Staff Report.

Old Business – none for this meeting

New Business -- Update from Library/Museum Advocacy Committee – The Advocacy Committee met again, although there were no members from the Museum Society present. There were representatives from the Museum Board, Library Board, Friends of the Library, and the Museum and Library Directors. It was a productive meeting with all members present agreeing to work to support the library and museum doing things such as: researching how the current library building was financed, connecting with the Ford Family Foundation to get a grant for advising us on how to move forward and hopefully for paying for plans for construction, and inviting Mayor Kate and State legislators to future meetings to garner legislative support.

Other Discussion – meeting change times to 6:30 for the next two months due to the Wall That Heals meeting taking place on Wednesday evenings through September.

Independence residents have the option to donate money for parks, library, and/or museum by paying an extra voluntary fee on their water bill.

Heath had questions regarding the museum, library, and parks working together.

He found it encouraging that the groups are working together – but why do we have the separate boards. We are in unusual times and generally there are separate roles for each board.

Pop-up space might be available in the Resource Center.

Adjourn – 7:24

Submitted by Vickie McCubbin

