



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Defined in ORS 97.778, the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to coordinate restoration, renovation, or maintenance of the state's historic cemeteries and to recommend projects and funding that help maintain and improve such historic cemeteries.

Commission Members:

Chair Sarah Baylinson, Vice Chair Lisa Sears, Peggy Drake, Johnny Edwards, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel, Shawn Steinmetz.

April 17, 2024 at 9:30 AM PST

The Old Train Station, Forest Grove, OR

Virtually held via Zoom

Members Present: Chair Sarah Baylinson, Vice Chair Lisa Sears, Peggy Drake, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel

Staff Present: Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator, Koren Tippet, Special Projects Archaeologist

Guests: Those who attended part or all of the meeting included Barry Branaugh, Amber Ames, Maureen Battistella, Judy Goldman, Sarah Rubenstein, Damon Kupper, Dianna Brown, Janice Sushereba, Melissa Porter, Pamela Alford, Susanna Fagen-Wirges, Kris Stenson, Mallory Keeney, James Liddle, Evan Brisentine, Kimberly Stevens, Elle Griego, Dan Klug

Meeting Notes

Meeting brought to order at 9:33am by Chair Baylinson.

1. Commission Business

- a. Welcome and Introductions Information
 - i. The Commission meeting is being held concurrently with the Oregon Heritage Conference, providing opportunities of learning, teaching, networking, and sharing of Oregon's Heritage resources. The last Oregon Heritage Conference held in person was 2018.
- b. Review of April 17, 2024, Agenda Action
 - i. Commissioner Silbernagel moved to approve the April 17, 2024, agenda as presented.
 - ii. Commissioner Sears seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 opposed.
- c. Review of February 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes Action
 - i. A misspelled name and correction of the word, "mural" to "memorial" was proposed by Chair Baylinson.
 - ii. Commissioner Silbernagel moved to approve the February 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes with proposed changes.

- iii. Commissioner Sears seconded the motion.
- iv. Motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 opposed.

2. Public Comment

Information

- a. This is the time for the public to address the Commission. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes. Chair Baylinson called for public comment.
 - i. Judy Goldman, of Washington County, commented that a coalition was able to put up a monument for the Methodist Meeting House, along with markers for those known to be in the cemetery there. They are currently undertaking a replacement of more than 50 headstones.
 - ii. Susanna Fagen-Wirgess, Greenwood Cemetery is being rezoned and looking for resources for preventing part of the property to be reallocated to housing.
 - 1. Kuri Gill advised she speak to the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board.
 - iii. Barry Branaugh commented that his family was selected as this year's recipient for cataloging, cleaning, and restoration in the Richmond cemetery.

3. OPRD & Heritage Update

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator, Kuri Gill, provided updates to the Commission about Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD) and Heritage Division business.
 - i. The Oregon Heritage Conference is underway!
 - ii. There are four grant programs with applications soon to be reviewed: Historic Cemeteries, Museums Grant, Diamonds in the Rough, and Preserving Oregon.
 - iii. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been consulting with the Heritage Program on the Oregon State Historic Plan for the last year and a half. The final draft has been sent to the National Parks Service for review.
 - iv. Staff updates: two archaeologists are joining the compliance team in May, the above-ground compliance reviewer position is moving to the interview stages, and the survey and inventory program coordinator position will be posted soon. The Historic Register coordinator is on parental leave and those duties are in part being filled by the division's program analyst, Val Ballestrem. Chrissy Curran's position has shifted from both Deputy Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (Deputy SHPO) to solely Deputy SHPO duties. Matt Rippie has been appointed the division's Deputy Director duties.
 - v. No legislative updates.

4. Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board

Information

- a. Mallory Kenney, Education and Compliance Program Manager, and James Liddle, Inspector, presented to the board about the requirements for operating cemeteries, including record keeping.

5. Oregon State Archives

Information

- a. Kris Stenson, State Records Manager, and Kim Gorman, Archivist, from Oregon Secretary of State Archives Division gave a presentation on cemeteries and related records and support available for districts and local governments.

- 6. Project Updates** Information
- a. Cemetery Stories – No updates given.
- 7. Cemetery Records Project** Information
- a. Cemetery Records Position Paper Update by Commissioner Silbernagel and Vice Chair Sears
 - i. While a final draft has been submitted for review, discussion was had about adding content based off the presentation on Oregon State Archives gave. The board was in agreement.
 - b. The next step for this project is for Commissioners to send their edits to Kuri Gill. A revised draft will be compiled for Commission review.
- 8. Upcoming Cemetery Resources** Information
- a. As part of the Oregon Heritage Conference, there is a cemetery preservation workshop taking place in Gaston this weekend.
 - b. SOLVE Cemetery Clean Up
 - i. Historic Cemetery Clean up days sponsored by SOLVE will begin again. Individuals can register with SOLVE and will receive assistance with outreach, volunteer management, equipment, and insurance coverage for the event. A free online workshop will also be taking place and will be included in the Heritage Bulletin. Another workshop may be held April 24th, and registration is online.
 - c. Historic Cemeteries Grant review will take place May 8th and is open to the public.
- 9. Items for Future Meetings** Information
- a. Discussion was had on future meeting locations.
 - b. Due to Commissioners' availability, the October 2024 meeting will be moved from the 24th – 25th, to the 10th and 11th.
- 10. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues** Information
- a. No updates.
- 11. Commission Planning Calendar** Information
- a. May 20, 2024 – 1:00- 2:00 pm, online, grant approval online
 - b. July 18-19, 2024 – TBA (Roseburg Area)
 - i. Chair requested Vice run meeting due to expected absence.
 - c. October 10-11, 2024 – TBA
 - d. February 7, 2024 – Online

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.