



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

State law established the seven-member Commission to maintain a listing of all historic cemeteries and gravesites in Oregon; promote public education on the significance of historic cemeteries; and help obtain financial and technical assistance for restoring, improving and maintaining their appearances.

Commission Members:

Milo Reed (Chair); Sarah Silbernagel (Vice Chair); Sarah Baylinson; Charlotte Lehan; Lisa Sears; Shawn Steinmetz

Thursday October 20, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting

Wilsonville
Tauchman House
31240 SW Boones Ferry Rd
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Zoom Meeting

link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xYoEFuuDRFCT_OseYbTCEQ

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Milo Reed (Chair); Sarah Silbernagel (Vice Chair); Sarah Baylinson; Charlotte Lehan; Lisa Sears; Shawn Steinmetz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kuri Gill, Koren Tippet

Guests: Katie Henry (presenter, Oregon Heritage Commission), Talle Malmstrom (presenter), Steve Sprenger, Pat Rogney, Sharon Robertson, Marla Decker

Business Meeting:

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of October 20, 2022 Agenda (**Action**)

- i. Moved to approve: Steinmetz, 2nd: Silbernagel, approved
- c) Approval of July 22, 2022 Minutes (**Action**)
 - i. Moved to approve: Lehan, 2nd: Silbernagel, approved

2. Public Comment: None

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update

- a) Heritage update (Information)
 - i. Rachel Thomas left the Heritage Technical Resource Coordinator position, and we have hired Cam Amabile for that position.
 - ii. Prepared to go in legislative session. No cemetery bills.
 - iii. Still working on the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan process happening. Reminded to take survey- available until 12/31/22.
- b) Land Acknowledgment update
 - i. OPRD is going to take the lead with guidance from tribes and others involved.
 - ii. Still working on how or when land acknowledgements should be used.
 - iii. Want to ensure when action is behind land acknowledgements. Intention, recognition and engaging of tribes- acknowledging their sovereignty.
 - iv. Not known how OPRD is going to move forward with land acknowledgments but on the table with guidance from Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)
 - v. Patrick Flannigan will be presenting at Heritage Commission that will be held in Talent. The link to the guidance is on LCIS website.
 - vi. OPRD is working on policy and procedures for Tribal engagement.
- c) Oregon Heritage Summit
 - i. Topic will be how to get volunteers back and retain them.
 - ii. Summit is going to remain online.
 - iii. Lehan shared her positive experience at the online conference.

4. Commission Positions & Roles

- a) Gill explained Southern Oregon recruitment failed, and the need to run it again.
- b) Charlotte Lehan was thanked for her service.

5. Project Updates (Information)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting. Native American Heritage Month, Veterans Day, Human Rights Month
 - i. (inaudible)
- b) Remote Sensing Project
 - i. (inaudible)
- c) Invasive Species Project – Sarah Silbernagel
 - i. (inaudible)
 - ii. Working on inviting a presenter
- d) Heritage Bulletin Updates
 - i. Reed still committed to updating the research bulletin.
 - ii. Discussion about mementos being prohibited in historic cemeteries and being inclusive to other cultures and military burials

- i. DEI nature of burial practices and mementoes needs to be addressed with respect to different cultures. Are rules inadvertently excluding different cultures? More conversation potentially leading to changes to be revisited

6. Economic Impact of Heritage report (Information)

- a) Henry described website
 - i. Cultural Impart Tool section will see the plans and sharing the Value of Heritage tool kit used to try to engage community
 - ii. It is a way to help people talk about why Heritage work is valuable to the community and the state.
 - iii. Messaging platform instruction tool
 - iv. Cultural Value of Heritage flyer implements messaging platform
 - v. Heritage stories are critical to resonate with people
 - vi. Value of Heritage Through Volunteers messaging platform
 - vii. Disaster resilience messaging guide
- b) Henry explained how gathering this data is essential for communicating with decision makers
 - i. Funded by OR Cultural Trust Fund, contracted with Eco NW
 - ii. Historical societies, libraries, museums, Heritage Tradition Designation were included
 - iii. Cemeteries not part of original data numbers due to revenue restrictions
 - iv. Heritage organizations directly supported 1600 employees, labor income of \$47,000,000.00
 - v. Data taken from 2019
 - vi. Heritage organizations supported \$196,000,000.00 in total economic activity
 - vii. Cell phone data used to track visiting Heritage projects showed 2,000,000 visitors, traditions pulled additional 1,000,000 visitors
 - viii. Heritage tourism attracted nearly 3,000,000 visitors who spent \$137,000,000.00
 - ix. Heritage supported more than 1300 jobs and \$55,000,00.00 in labor income
 - x. Tourism generated \$3,000,000.00 in state and local taxes
- c) Second part of report focused on community asset value of Heritage organizations and focused on social capital, cultural capital, spiritual capital
 - i. For example: OR Black Pioneers don't have a physical location (cemetery?) but exhibits generate capital
- d) Section of report expanded on different type of capital Heritage organizations like cemeteries generated
- e) Report shows chart to show communities how to gather data
 - i. Volunteers can be tracked and used
 - ii. Tracking visitors- how much spent?
- f) Report outlined different ways to look at value- cultural, historical, aesthetic etc.
- g) How organizations can band together in regions to fund their economic impact
- h) Report shows that Heritage organizations have an impact on economy along with cultural and social value

- 7. Security Camera Project Results – Fernwood Pioneer Cemetery and Newberg Friends Community Cemetery (Information)**
 - a) Malmstrom described why applied for grant for security cameras including vandalism and break ins. Grant was awarded.
 - b) Described the effectiveness of the cameras but trail camera may be needed still due to such things as drug and homeless activity
 - c) Detailed the importance of training, good computer and wifi- keeping good security log
- 8. Sacramento Historic City Cemetery project presentations –** This item was removed from the agenda.
- 9. Cemetery Permit (Information)**
 - a) Cemetery care permit approved for Camp Polk Cemetery by Camp Polk Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee.
- 10. Items for Future Meetings (discussion mostly inaudible)**
 - a) Following discussion settled on Central Oregon, with a possible invasive species (release the new bulletin at this time) discussion in the evening. April 6-7 with the marker repair workshop.
- 11. Reports: Commissioner Action and Issues**
 - a) Milo Reed: Working on the National Register MPD for African American related sites.
 - b) Silbernagel: Not working on too much cemetery stuff. Did attend a presentation at Wallowa History Center. Discussed the Promise Cemetery. Brought up SOLVE as an option specific for cemeteries.
 - c) Lehan: nothing
 - d) Steinmetz: Working on GPR at Weston Cemetery, doing a project concerning family plot, visiting for the meeting Sherwood cemetery.
 - e) Baylinson: Has worked on cemetery issues. In their job, they are dealing with the public art memorial for people whose cremains are held by the Oregon State Mental Health Hospital.
 - f) Sears: Considering cemetery stories.
- 12. Commission Planning Calendar**
 - a) October 2023 might be ready to have OCHC, Heritage Commission and State Advisory meet together, site visits
 - b) Upcoming meetings
 - a) February 3, 2022 – Teleconference
 - b) April 6-7, 2023 – Location TBA, Thursday afternoon meeting, evening event, morning tour
 - c) June, 2023 – teleconference, grant approval only
 - d) July 20-21, 2023 - Location TBA, Thursday afternoon meeting, evening event, morning tour

Meeting adjourned