

**OREGON HERITAGE COMMISSION AND
OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES JOINT MEETING
MINUTES**

**May 6, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
Valley River Inn
1000 Valley River Way Eugene OR**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Layne Sawyer, Irene Zenev, Carole Astley, E. John Rumpakis, Jan Mitchell, George Vogt, George Kramer, Jon Tullis, Jill Thorne, Judy Juntunen, Diana LaSarge, Dirk Siedlecki, Robert Keeler, Nick Eddy

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Col-lea Lane, Dale Ivan

STAFF: Kuri Gill-Cemeteries Coordinator, Kyle Jansson-Heritage Coordinator, Roger Roper-Deputy SHPO, Kimarie Lamb-Administrative Assistant

GUESTS AND PROPONENTS: Linda Van Orden, Bob Biswell, Cleo Rumpakis

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting came to order at 1:30 p.m. Chairman George Kramer gave the opening introduction and Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman George Kramer stated one minor change under old business is to add the Oregon Newspaper Digitization project update. E. John Rumpakis moved to approve the agenda as submitted and Chairman Keeler seconded it. All were in favor and it passed unanimously.

Approval of OCHC Minutes of March 14, 2008

Diana LaSarge stated a minor change that the agenda heading should read “minutes” and not “agenda”. Dirk Siedlecki moved to approve the minutes and Nick Eddy seconded it. All were in favor of approval of the minutes and it passed unanimously.

Approval of OHC Minutes of Jan 28, 2008

Kyle Jansson recommended that votes for approval of the OHC minutes be delayed at this time as the past meeting was via phone during a snow storm. Copies of the minutes were not on hand and Chairman George Kramer approved that voting is so delayed.

Cemeteries Commission Action Plan Update

Kuri Gill gave updates on the legislative and education work sessions as broken out between Commissioners.

- Legislative: in the process of re-organizing and figuring out an approach to changes that Commissioners would like to have happen.

- Education: had a fundraising workshop and people were very interested.
- Projects: offering signage for Cemeteries who are listed with the Commission and distribution started at the meeting with the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association, then at the workshop and at the Oregon Heritage Conference.

Commissioners have hosted informal brown bag lunches within their own areas. The Community gets information from Commissioners and gives input about needs and what's going on so Commissioners can better serve them.

- Grants Program: grants were awarded in November 2007. Grant projects are coming into place and projects are getting completed quickly and very well. Most are attempting to get the work done before Memorial Day.

Heritage Commission Action Plan Update

Kyle Jansson gave updates on:

- The Heritage Commission put into its action plan for 2007/2009 a greater emphasis on use of technology on education and strengthening local, regional, ethnic organization ties with the Heritage Commission. There will be a complete set of heritage sites online focusing on education, preservation and other aspects of Heritage Management.
- The Commission has assisted the Oregon Dept of Education in gathering Oregon's history curriculums which will go up online so during the Sesquicentennial year Teachers will have access to a large range of lesson plans and curriculum related to Oregon history.
- This year's conference exceeded 300 attendees, which doubled from last year's conference. Thanks to staff and Roger Roper for his database expertise to make sure things were in place. Next year credit card registration will be offered online.

OPRD Centennial Horizons Plan

Mark Davison gave a presentation on the "Centennial Horizon Initiative: Shaping the Future of Recreation, Conservation and Preservation in Oregon". Tim Wood, OPRD Director, decided there needed to be a strategic visioning plan for the department. The OPRD centennial takes place in 2022 so this is to reposition the agency to go forward into the next 100 years. The purpose is to have a flexible living document that can be revisited every several years and then redone on a big scale every ten years.

Mark said States Parks is no longer just Parks; it now also consists of SHPO, State Fair and Exposition Center, Oregon Heritage Commission, Historic Cemeteries Commission, Ocean Shores, Willamette River Greenways, Scenic Waterways, Recreation Grants and Volunteers. A draft vision plan was handed out to Commissioners for their review and input.

The Parks Director is currently working on setting up a Government to Government meeting with the Tribes for their input on this as well. Initially this plan will be adopted this year in 2008 and then implemented in 2014.

Access to the plan is up on the OPRD website. Thoughts and comments will help the legislature when they go review the process. The last date to submit comments will be at the end of May.

The Commissioners gave brief comments to principles regarding the new plan:

- Standardizing the language to clarify the mandate of the department and insert what the “Cultural” part implies to include.
- Implementing the same kind of messaging and branding throughout the State.
- Bridging over to the private sector where they can meet the standards of State qualifications.
- Encourage the private sector to do their part and close the gap between private and public sectors.
- “Saving Oregon’s Special Places” should include Historic Cemeteries.
- Putting more emphasis on Heritage in the vision plan and how strategies can be transformed into an action plan.
- Including a statement that OPRD has a vision to serve all segments of Oregon, geographically (East, West, North, South, Rural, Urban, etc.)
- Prioritizing some of the principles over others.
- As principles are adopted, it’s important to know how they will be used and if specific strategies will become legislative within the department.
- Involving the public and Tribes for their input to this plan.
- Changing some of the wording and phrases to include less jargon.
- Addressing the financial aspect for perpetuity. Parks has a great funding system beyond the state and the people’s taxation other than the endowment programs.
- Encouraging a volunteer corps to help in Parks in a positive way.
- Regionally implementing all of the principles and grand design of the plan and allowing each region to choose principle priority.
- With this being a guiding document, review of principle five is suggested to be merged or re-emphasized.
- Thanks to our Parks Director and staff for discussing the physical, spiritual, cultural, and scientific benefits related to Parks.

Old Business

Roger Roper gave an update on the University of Oregon State Library Newspaper Digitization Project. While the Heritage Commission has encouraged support for the project, the Parks and Recreation Commission has not included it in its 2009-11 budget. Some legislatures believe that new heritage projects are not a proper use of Measure 66

lottery funds and Heritage Commissioners suggested working to find other funding sources.

One concern is the use of lottery dollars which is being questioned very seriously by the legislature and the legislative fiscal office who doesn't want to see new funding requests or new initiatives for non-Parks stuff. It was suggested to sit with the Newspaper Association and with partners to get funding outside of OPRD.

Mr. Roper stated that the Heritage Commission is very well loved by the Parks Commission. There is interest and support but this is an awkward convergence of things that has derailed the project.

Chairman Bob Keeler had no old business to discuss.

New Business

The Heritage Commission awarded a grant last year to Southern Oregon Public Television for a series of half-hour specials for History Week and every time it's aired, there's a note that says "sponsored by the Oregon Heritage Commission" across the front of the screen.

Commissioner Reports and Comments

E. John Rumpakis recognized Commissioners, and staff for an outstanding Heritage Conference.

Dirk Siedlecki mentioned the Cemetery projects. He thanked Kuri Gill and Kyle Jansson on the workshop done around the state on the grants program.

Judy Juntunen mentioned the regional meetings she attended. She worked with the Sons of Union Veterans to get seven markers for unmarked soldier graves and three others were wives, as well as two markers for two African-American women, making it a total of 12 markers. The hope is to have them all up by this Memorial Day.

Jan Mitchell mentioned that the NPS has a program called the National Heritage Areas which brings in promotional and preservation funding which puts properties on a list for the feasibility study. There are towns in line for this and she expects to hear the results within a week. The study will actually happen in about two years.

Carol Astley commented on the tourism matching grants which will be opening up in the next couple of weeks. Ideas are being accepted now and applications will be accepted in June 2008 and information can be obtained from the Travel Oregon website.

Jon Tullis commented that the film, On Paper Wings, that was shown during the conference was outstanding. He believes this was a remarkable and predicts an award in the future.

Jill Thorne commented that it's deplorable that the Oregon 150 was not funded which tells her that heritage culture in the Capitol has gone away. She believes this should be on the next agenda and a work plan drawn up for discussion.

Roger Roper followed up on the regional meetings and stated that it's been a great way for Commissioners to meet folks in their area and find out what their needs are. He wondered if the Heritage Commission would want to do the brown bag lunch in their areas and if so Kuri Gill and Kyle Jansson would be available for ideas.

Dirk Siedlecki commented that it works very well and he will be doing a Monument Repair and Cleaning workshop in June.

There were no other comments from Commissioners and Chairman Bob Keeler turned it back over to Chairman Kramer.

Public Comments

Bob Biswell gave comments about reliving history and he complimented Kyle Jansson on his Herbert Hoover speech during the conference. He thanked Kuri Gill and Kyle Jansson for having the Cemetery tour at the Milliorn Cemetery.

Mary Van Orden showed her before and after pictures of the cleaning of some headstones during the Cemetery tour. There were about 25-30 people that were signed up to attend the tour and about four commissioners showed up. She was excited at the turn out.

Adjourn

Chairman George Kramer moved to adjourn the meeting and Chairman Bob Keeler also moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Rumpakis. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Commission Meetings:

Heritage Commission, August 4, north central Oregon

Commission on Historic Cemeteries, August 8, Jackson County

No further discussion on the upcoming Commission meetings was given.