

**Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries
Meeting Minutes**

**Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario, OR
September 26th, 2008 1:00-5:00pm**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Juntunen – Vice Chair, Diana LaSarge, Dirk Siedlecki, Robert Keeler – Chair, Nick Eddy

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Col-lea Lane

STAFF: Kuri Gill-Historic Cemeteries Program Coordinator, Kimarie Lamb – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS AND PROPONENTS: Elizabeth Brickey, Tom Gray, Coralee Williams

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting came to order at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Bob Keeler welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the opening introduction. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of the OCHC Minutes of August 8, 2009

Approved with small change noted by Bob. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner offices and terms

Kuri reported that Diana LaSarge and Judy Juntunen have been appointed to second terms, to end July 1, 2012. Kuri reported that Dale Ivan has resigned from Commission for personal reasons.

Nick Eddy gave his notice of resignation at the end of the OCHC held in Ontario over the weekend.

Bob led the group in a discussion of offices. Kuri noted that current offices are Bob Keeler as chair and Judy Juntunen as Vice Chair. The group agreed that the terms of office should be two years. Officers shall be selected at the last fall meeting, with the term beginning immediately.

Judy Juntunen accepted the nomination for Chair and Dirk Siedlecki accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. The pair was accepted in a unanimous decision.

PeaceHealth & Portland Zoo Burials

Kuri reported on the results of the PeaceHealth burials, the remains of four humans were discovered at the site as well as 6 other empty grave sites. The other burials had been removed in 1901. All grave goods and remains are currently housed the University of Oregon. The human remains will be reinterred at Gillespie Cemetery in Eugene, where the other remains had been placed.

All parties have received excellent press coverage in the handling of the process. The effort was the impetus of the Heritage Stewardship Recognition. Kuri encouraged people to tell Heritage Programs about anyone who “does the right thing” in regards to Oregon historic and heritage resources.

There was a historic burial discovered at the Portland Zoo. The Zoo stopped work. The remains had been previously disturbed. There are records of two cemeteries previously on the zoo property. OCHC initially recommend removing the remains since they have been disturbed before and more conduit was being placed in the same area. The Zoo found a way to move the conduit to another area. The commission changed positions based on this and approved of the remains staying the original location. The location is

mapped and marked and listed with the commission. The commission also recommended that the Zoo incorporate research and policy to find and address any future discovered burials since discoveries are likely.

Workshop Discussion

Kuri reported on the most recent and upcoming workshops. The Aug 9, 2008 – Gathering, Training & Keeping Volunteers workshop held in Phoenix was a success with excellent evaluations. The two upcoming workshops are Sept 27, 2008 – Getting your Cemetery on the Map – Interpretation and Event Ideas (Ontario) and October 23 & 24, 2008 – Researching People and Places (Salem).

The commission discussed the low turnout for the workshops. Kuri noted that the workshop topics were the most requested in the mini-survey she completed following her first workshop in Oregon City. Those who do attend give high value to the information and resources.

Commissioners commented that the workshops are useful to them for two reasons. First, it helps build the relationships of the commission members. They have more time to get to know each other and discuss issues and concerns. They also get more time with folks doing the cemetery work, which is good perspective to learn. Second, they receive training that they can impart to others doing the work.

Kuri stated that it feels like the few we are serving feel a huge amount of support for their efforts. They become reenergized and pass it on to others in their organization.

Kuri also mentioned the capability to present some online workshops.

The commission agreed that it is still worth doing the workshops in coordination with our meetings. The additional cost is relatively low and we serve those who attend well. The commission also agreed that we should try a few online trainings.

Cemeteries as green spaces – Kuri is looking into funding for pilot projects for the native and heritage plant projects and recreation projects in historic cemeteries.

Legislation – historic cemeteries definition change, possibly OCHA

Education – Heritage Bulletins – Several new ones on line. Researching tips and sources is one of the new ones. Web site – check it out and give input. It is regularly updated.

The group discussed a length the need for a one page brochure about the OCHC and its work. Judy and Bob agreed to come up with the language for the document. It can be available for printing on the website.

Burial index – several on board, some information is coming in. Goal is October of 2009.

Symposium – Commission agreed to not do the symposium. There has been little interest in the partnership. After discussion, the commission decided to try to get some cemetery related papers presented at the heritage conference. Bob and Judy agreed to work on the call for papers.

Commissioner gatherings – No gatherings since the last meeting.

Cemetery Signs – We continue to give signs out.

Heritage Conference – Portland, April 15-18, 2009. We are combining with the Pacific Northwest History Conference, Northwest Archivist, Northwest Oral Historians. It will be great!

Proposed 2009 meeting schedule –

Friday March 6th (foil rubbing workshop & mtg) & 7th Marker Repair Workshop – Lincoln City

Thursday April 16th (mtg) Heritage Conference - Portland

Friday July 24th (grant workshop & meeting) & 25th Fundraising Workshop – Baker City

Friday October 23rd (foil rubbing workshop & mtg) & 24th Cemetery Mapping Workshop – Roseburg

Partners Report

OMCB – Has a new executive director. They may be cut or transferred to another division depending on their proposal to the legislature for a fee increase.

OHCA – They are considering proposing the date change to the legislature.

CAO – Had their recent joint conference with Washington association.

Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned