

# Minutes

## Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Oregon Coast History Center, 545 SW Ninth Street Newport, OR  
March 6, 2009 1:00-5:00pm

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Judy Juntunen – Chair, Diana LaSarge, Dirk Siedlecki – Vice Chair, Robert Keeler, Kendell Phillips, Lynn Reagan

**COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:** Col-lea Lane

**STAFF:** Kuri Gill-Historic Cemeteries Program Coordinator, Kyle Jansson – Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator, Roger Roper – Deputy SHPO

**Approval of September minutes** - Approved

**Additions to the Agenda** – None

**Lone Fir Cemetery presentation** - Stanley Clarke and Jane Hansen of Lango Hansen Landscape Architects presented about the community process to design the gravel area, form building location and Chinese burial site and hospital patient burial site. They explained the committee process that included the Chinese and mental health communities.

They shared some of the history connected to the location and the cemetery as a whole. Much of plan ties into historical research, Chinese tradition and the flavor of the local neighborhood.

They want to be cautious of the remaining burials in the area. The intent to disturb as little as possible, especially in the middle of the area. Supposed there is a 16” layer of gravel over the entire area. They lay a separating material and record this information. The plan is not to do anything that goes below this level.

Much of the stone will be basalt. There will be a trellis that is based on pictures of one that was in the cemetery at one point. Will include a Chinese burning altar, there was one there at one point. The idea is to have Chinese artisans build it.

There is not funding for this now, so there it is just a plan.

### **South Beach Cemetery presentation**

Loretta of the Lincoln County Historical Society explained the new partnership between the society, the county and the local DAR to care for and improve the South Beach Cemetery. They will be working with the local youth organizations for major clean up.

### **Commissioner Comments/Reports**

Commissioner Siedlecki – There was another brown bag get together. People discussed many things including the Take Care of Oregon Days. The next meeting may be a project or tour in one of the represented cemeteries. The Friends of Jacksonville Cemetery has formed as its own nonprofit organization. The Jacksonville Cemetery living history tours were awarded an Ovation Award Oregon’s best Heritage Events by the Festivals & Events Association.

Commissioner Keeler – A brown bag lunch is being planned in Washington county in May. Bob will be attending the Oregon Parks Commission meeting to inform them about the Commission's work. Bob and Judy will be attending the Association for gravestone Studies conference in June. They will be presenting a session about the Commission.

Commissioner Juntunen – Crystal Lake Cemetery will be hosting historic preservation month (May) activities. They have a new brochure out and there will be a Memorial Day service. She continues to work with the SOUV to document the civil war soldiers.

Commissioner LaSarge – The grant that funded the documentation of the Catholic Cemetery on the reservation. The CTUIR board of trustees is going to allow her to continue this work on other cemeteries on tribal lands.

Commissioner Phillips – there will be a Take Care of Oregon event at Laurel Cemetery organized by the Grange.

Commissioner Reagan – As soon as the article ran about him being on the commission, he received a call about the condition of the Westfall Cemetery. He will head out there when the weather is better and find out what the needs are.

**OPRD Report** Roger Roper – Provide a little budget update, basically it is unknown. The most vulnerable program will be the grant program. He also mentioned the Heritage Commission will be discussing the idea of heritage areas and heritage events.

**Heritage and Native Plant Project** – Charmane Landing, a new volunteer for the commission, has committed to help organize our program. She will help with planning, publications and cemetery visits to help cemeteries incorporate native and heritage plants in their preservation plans. Mosier Pioneer Cemetery is interested in participating.

**Commissioner Status** – Commissioner Col-lea Lane has resigned. Kuri will begin a search for a new coastal commissioner beginning in May, to have someone seated by the July meeting.

## **Grants**

Summary – All grants completed, except three who requested extensions

Discussion – change to annual cycle – Kuri proposed that the cycle be annual. Someone suggested that the first grant of the biennium could be a two year grant. Discussion followed concluding that it would be more difficult to track and that these grants are small enough that a year should be enough to complete. It was suggested that we limited the number of times cemeteries can apply. It was decided that that could be a consideration of the selection committee, but it shouldn't be a rule. This is in case it is a really, innovative or urgent request or we don't get many requests. Commissioner Keeler moved that staff devise a plan to offer the grant twice in the biennium. Commissioner Phillips seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion – dowsing – Should the commission funding dowsing for graves with the grant funds? Discussion noted that it is know to be effective, but that there is no scientific evidence or backing for this success. These being public moneys, it would be hard to fund this. A decision was held off for further research. Commissioner Phillips will report at the next meeting.

**Conference** Kyle Jansson reported on the highlights of the upcoming conference

## **Partnership Updates**

OMCB – Has legislation requesting increased death certificate fees to maintain operations.

OHCA – Will be host in marker repair workshop near Portland in the summer

CAO – Their conference will be April 3. Should be very good.

**Public Comment** – Carol Surrency gave and OHCA update

**Meeting Adjourned**

5:15 Eureka Cemetery Tour