

# Minutes

## Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer St, rm 124B  
Salem, OR

April 25, 2012, 1:00pm-4:00pm

1:00 – 4:00 OCHC Public Business Meeting

I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

*Present: Dirk Siedlecki, Bob Keeler, Judy Juntunen, Ken Phillips, Diana LaSarge  
Excused: Diane Elder, Mike Leamy  
Guests: Bruce Palone, Stan Clarke, Carol Surrency, Judy Goldmann, Jan Leaved,  
Barbara Bonnem, Kylie Pine*

II. Approval of February minutes & additions to the agenda (5 min)

*3 paragraph C changes of commission service for Judy and Diana change 13 to 12.  
Commissioner comments – “encourage to have repairs complete”  
Approved with changes, moved by Phillips, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keeler*

III. Staff update (25 min) – Roger, Kuri

*Cara Kaser discussed the new Oregon Heritage blog and Facebook page changes.  
Gill noted the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board is working on the administrative  
rules for the new plot reclaim and resale law. They will work with the Commission on the  
language. The related issue at Multnomah Park will not be a problem since no new sales  
are occurring at the cemetery.*

*Oregon State Hospital Memorial Project – the handling of the cremains and canisters at  
the Oregon State Hospital will be through a 1% for art memorial project. The Oregon Arts  
Commission and the State Hospital will be working with the Tribes on cremains of Native  
Americans. The plan is to remove the cremains from the current canisters and place them  
in cylinders in a memorial wall. The canisters would then be placed on public display.  
Some people support the idea of the transparency message of the memorial. Others are  
concerned with the conservation of the canisters and the ability to fully remove the  
remains from the canisters. If that is the case then they don't want the canisters displayed.  
Also, for many, the highest priority is the return of the cremains to family. So the tracking  
of the remains and the canister will be important for both to be claimed together. Artists  
are also looking to track down the markers from the original cemetery and incorporate  
them into the memorial.*

*Discussion*

*Juntunen – Has a hard time with the canisters being displayed. A columbarium with  
canisters inside might be more appropriate. There should be an interpretive panel.*

*Siedlecki – This would be continuing the wrong by putting them on display.*

*LaSarge – Talked with tribal rep and supported repatriation and burial on site.*

*Clarke (Public) – Has an ancestor that was there and would not feel comfortable with  
them on display. They need to be treated with respect. They should incorporate the  
markers as well.*

*Siedlecki – There are families still finding and claiming remains.*

*Palone (public) – The artist may be coming from a sensitive place, but it is inappropriate.*

Deleted: that

*LaSarge – The Holocaust Museum made a conscious choice not to show any human remains, and still send the message. Such an approach should be considered here.*  
*LaSarge – Moved that OCHC send a letter to Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon State Hospital, and cc'd to the Salem Landmarks Commission. The letter should state that the Commission is opposed to the display of canisters if the human remains cannot be fully removed, that agreement is made with the Tribes in the handling of the Native American remains. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keeler. Approved.*

IV. Commissioner Comments/Reports (30 min)

*Phillips – Working on information on two cemeteries to get them listed. Completed research and collected information on who is buried at the Leonard and Spence cemeteries.*

*Juntunen – In compiling a list of Civil War vets in Crystal Lake Cemetery, they discovered that Gen Thorp was not buried there. They are working with Riverview Cemetery where he was moved to move the marker.*

*Keeler – Still working on the remote sensing paper. Incorporating new grant info into the grant assessment and review project. Wrote a review for Mad as the Mist and Snow for the Association for Gravestone Studies. AIA – Salem is having a May 18 talk about Roman Funerary Monuments.*

*Siedlecki – Still working on trying to get the repairs completed following the vandalism at Central Point Cemetery. The city may take it over. Doing a program for Southern Oregon Historical Society on using cemeteries for genealogy and solving mysteries. Working with the paper to shed light on all of the volunteers working in southern Oregon cemeteries. The editor and reporter are on board. Friends of Jacksonville Cemetery will have the Memorial Day Meet and Greet. Siedlecki will lead two workshops – marker cleaning and marker restoration. He will give two talks in June. The cemetery is looking into the Civil War veterans and ordering markers for those graves without one.*

*LaSarge - Visited several small cemeteries Holdman, Bowlus, Gurdane, Kees. Looking for the William McKay gravesite. He was listed at Olney Cemetery, but he may have been moved there. Working with a couple of projects in Washington. Fort Vancouver is moving a building and putting infrastructure within a cemetery footprint. Looking for Pierre Pambrun – buried at Walla Walla. He was moved to Fort Vancouver. DAR had placed a marker, but it is gone now. Working on the Old Agency Cemetery grant project. Will volunteer at Olney for Memorial Day.*

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V. Association for Gravestone Studies conference (20 min)

*2012 – Longbranch, New Jersey*

*2013 – June 18-23 in Oregon – Willamette University*

*Bus tours – one south, one north*

*Promotion and advertising – logo, theme*

*Kuri – interpretation workshop*

*Eugene Masonic cemetery*

*Oswego Pioneer cemetery*

*Lecture on Chinese disinterments*

*Rose City – Japanese Cemetery and Gypsy cemetery*

*Native American issues*

*State Hospital  
NAGPRA  
Presentation on carvers and stone sourcing  
Russian markers  
Heritage rose group – Laura King  
Mosier for landscaping*

- VI. Grant (15 min) – current cycle, approve grant recommendations – Kuri Siedlecki – *reviewed the Wagner Creek application and talked with the Sacred Heart Catholic Church about their project. Keeler moved to approve recommendations of the grant selection committee. Phillips second. Approved unanimously.*
- VII. Fences, Kiosks, etc. in historic cemeteries (20 min) - *Juntunen will work on information for this.*
- VIII. Cemetery Rules discussion (20 min) – Dirk *This was a problem in Jacksonville Cemetery. They set rules against grave goods. It was a challenging transition, but it is working well.*
- IX. Oregon Cemetery Volunteer Corps (10 min) – *Volunteer corps is running and will be released in May*
- X. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops (5 min)
  - a. *July 20 mtg, 21 marker repair workshop - Burns*
  - b. *Oct - Oswego Pioneer Cemetery, possibly Heritage Rose session*
  - c. *Feb – Salem conference call*
- XI. Public Comment (15 min) (3-minute limit per person)

*Bruce Palone – Artist and stone carver. Wanted to introduce himself and share information about his work.*

*Carol Surrency – OHCA has two new enthusiastic members. They are interested in ideas for growing and developing.*

*Judy Goldmann – Hillsboro Pioneer Cemetery plans have gone forward and a sign will be erected. The project has brought interest to the cemetery.*

*Kylie Pine and Barbara Bonnem – They shared concerns about the state hospital project. They are concerned about the public display of human remains without concern for their beliefs. They are also concerned about the separation of the remains. Bonnem served on the committee that reviewed the handling of the remains. The committee recommended that the remains stay at the State Hospital and in a safe place with interpretive information.*
- XII. Meeting Adjourned