

# Minutes

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries  
May 4, 2016, 9:00am-12:00pm  
Oregon State Capitol Rm257

- I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
  - a. Charlotte Lehan, Mark Petrie, Kim Morley, Bev Power, Mike Leamy, Diane Elder, Matt Diederich, Kuri Gill
  - b. Guests – LisaMary Wichowski, Judy Goldmann, Tracy Willey, Melisa McDonald, Terra Wheeler, William Chang, Savannah Herrell
- II. Public Comment (15 min) Comment limited to 5 minutes
  - a. Judy Goldmann – burial ground at Methodist meeting house area, now North Hillsboro industrial area. The studies to find the burials, showed no burials in the area tested. They may be nearby. Adoption of new street names in the area was being considered. The public came to suggest names, but the council approved the whole package. They will try again. Big development is a challenge for this property.
- III. Savannah Herrell – Cemetery Vandalism and Design (30 min)
  - a. Would like a summary in a bulletin or hand-out
- IV. Discussion with Association for Gravestone Studies – LisaMary Wichowski (30 min)
  - a. AGS conference brought 130 people back as tourists. Act as advocacy group and education group as cemeteries. They have created regional groups, Oregon, Washington and California. Cover the things that the Pacific NW has with each other.
  - b. AGS can offer advocacy. Letter writing, means of communication, organize work days and workshops. Meeting twice a year. Would like to organize with OCHC.
  - c. Charlotte is interested in the interest in the artistry. We don't take advantage enough of the art and culture side of the cemetery. It could be a way to pull the public in.
  - d. Can work with the arts commission to garner support.
  - e. Can work outside the time parameters that we have.
  - f. Not many Southern Oregon members
  - g. Will not work on publications yet. Likely would do them through AGS.
  - h. Put link on the website to the Facebook group [pnwags@gmail.com](mailto:pnwags@gmail.com)
- V. Staff update (15 min) – Kuri Gill
- VI. Events in Historic Cemeteries Draft Bulletin – Bev Power (15 min)
  - a. Charlotte – covers things really well. Situation is different for every cemetery, this flags a lot of the issues.

- b. Possible bulletin on rules
  - c. LisaMary – overall opinion is the events are a good guard against vandalism.
  - d. Melissa – come up with some of the triggers where you might cross the line – alcohol, weddings
- VII. How to Own a Cemetery Bulletin – Charlotte Lehan (15 min)
- VIII. Commissioner Comments/Reports (20 min)
- a. Charlotte – Nothing new cemetery-wise. This is the busy season. Has had a lot of really good work from county corrections. It is very helpful for monument cleaning and leveling and lifting.
  - b. Policy – clearing done where there are no burials and found a marble headstone. It had been replaced. It was in perfect condition and with base and all. Bev – gave it to a group to put on display about veterans monument. Showed an example at the tour.
  - c. Mark – Nothing to report on cemeteries. Cares for a Tribal plot in the Marshfield Cemetery. Cricket Soules is working with them to remove native species with the neighboring high school students. Helps limit vandalism. Researching Tribal history grave sites. They modified living trees for the grave marker.
  - d. Kim – Memorial Day coming up. Very educational meeting. More outreach between the CAO and OCHC.
  - e. Bev – Savannah’s presentation was awesome. Line of site is a problem in the cemetery. Campers is a problem. Mausoleum is from the 1920s, trouble with the marble floor. Contractors familiar with the problem is hard to find.
  - f. Mike – Fort Stevens Post Cemetery – conformed to the federal military cemetery design rules. The iron fence was replaced with cheap aluminum, trees were gone, and the ground was torn up. They seeded over it. Historic ambiance was gone. Countywide cemetery district. It required the approval of all five city councils. A month ago there was a gathering of government gathering of Astoria, were the countywide district was proposed. Met with Astoria mayor to talk about the history of trying to form the district. Another issue came up. Last May the city council raised fees annually, to get to the cost of caring for the cemetery. The fees go to the general fund, not the cemetery. Will meet again with the city and a counselor. May end up being a rural cemetery district. Can it exist to funnel funds to existing cemetery authorities. Contacted the Special Districts, didn’t get an answer.
  - g. Diane – Took a trip to New Orleans and Houston and visited different cemeteries in Baton Rouge, Beeville, San Antonio.
- XI. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops (5 min)
- June 6, 1-2 phone meeting for grant approval
  - June 24, 1-4 location, Oregon City, propose no workshop
  - Oct 14, 1-4 – suggested locations Medford, Grants Pass
- XIII. Meeting Adjourned