

Minutes

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries
October 16, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm
Paisley Community Center

- I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
 - a. Diane Elder, Mike Leamy, Mark Petrie, Charlotte Lehan, Matt Diederich, Kuri Gill
 - b. Carolyn Pottorff, Norma Carlon, Edna Delarm, Ila Jean Branum, Bill Gransee, Jan Cupernall, Chuck Adams, Bob Elder, Melisa McDonald, Diana Adams, Pierre Hoppe, Ginger Casto
- II. Comments from hosts (10 min)
 - a. none
- III. Public Comment (15 min) Comment limited to 5 minutes
 - a. Diana Adams – Welcome and thank you for coming all this way.
- IV. Staff update (15 min) – Kuri Gill
 - a. Chrissy Curran hired as Deputy SHPO
 - b. Savannah Harrell’s thesis will be on historic cemeteries, we plan to invite her to present at the May meeting
 - c. Burial Site Guide data entry – 4 counties complete
 - d. Commissioner recruitment – will know more about any new processes next week. We hope to have commissioners in place by the February meeting.
- V. Commissioner Comments/Reports (20 min)
 - a. Mark – Met with Cricket Soules, who works with Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery. She has a lot of knowledge and ideas. Suggested having a brown bag lunch in the area for the local cemetery folks. He is going to work on that.
 - b. Charlotte – Moved a building to the cemetery and leave it open all of the time so people can use brooms and rakes and such. The exterior wall with the cover has a map and information on the cemetery.
 - i. Comment about the historic cemetery database – where possible, it would be good to put that there is something distinctive of the cemetery in it.
 - c. Diane – At Paisley Cemetery, each year they change the display on one part of the kiosk (May). Stopped at New Pine Creek, Davis Creek, Fort Bidwell (CA) and Willow Ranch (CA) Cemeteries. Tour at Camp Polk Cemetery was great. A cemetery worth seeing.
 - d. Mike –

- i. Security cameras – talked with Ft. Stevens Cemetery and he saw a sign the noted that there is a camera on premises. It seems to be working.
 - ii. Greenwood – going stone by stone, lifting and leveling stones. Get donations of time to reset monuments, equipment donated (needs repair), built a tripod for a 10 ft lift of monuments.
 - iii. Had a call regarding the Fort Stevens post Cemetery. Friends have contracted with the army to manage the cemetery. The cemetery is removing part of the fence and the trees. Stones will be leveled as well, but they won't stay because it is sand fill.
- VI. Oregon Archaeology laws and information (30 min)
 - a. Presentation from Matt Diederich, SHPO
- VII. Discussion – events in historic cemeteries (20 min)
 - a. Events – talking tombstones, using cemeteries as event center, weddings (why not?),
 - b. practical side – the number of people who will be there is an issue, parking, frequency matters, disgruntled neighbors. Length of the event.
 - c. Conflicting expectations with people who have people buried there. The idea of the sanctity of the cemetery
 - d. You aren't going to make all of the people happy all of the time
 - e. Melissa commented on Lone Fir – have to protect it in a different way, they have to current people involved in a different way as a burial, it is a park. Far more comments that were positive there than negative.
 - f. If the event is with the intend of honor and respect
 - g. If the commission is going to take a position please consider an urban cemetery.
 - h. A person who complains, has a valid complaint
 - i. Public would be dead-set against a wedding in the cemetery.
 - j. Different in the own group is telling – that this is an issue.
 - k. We invite people in to the cemetery, encourage horseback riders to go through the cemeteries, cyclists, etc. They have a port-a-potty. Good visitors are a good thing.
 - l. Events of the cemetery and the events of the people with people buried there.
 - m. Mike recommended we carry this topic over to the next meeting to consider a bulletin.
- VIII. Discussion – local landmark designation for historic cemeteries, counties (20 min) – Luther White Cemetery
 - a. Grow this out of the database – find out how many are locally designated, find out how many are owned, how to own a cemetery should be a bulletin (board, county, etc.) Charlotte will do an outline of it of the bulletin.
- IX. OCHC Planning – (30 min) – Discuss plan ideas based on the last meeting
 - a. Cemetery exhibit – no expected action
 - b. Oregon Heritage Conference – waiting on more from Kuri via email

- c. Legislation study – change to 75 years from today, ownership and abandoned cemeteries (how does it work in most other states), work with AGS on both and with OMCB for the abandoned ones
 - d. Research – cemetery ownership – possibly our temporary staff
 - e. Marble monuments – Heritage Bulletin – no action expected
 - f. Coordinate with OTE for information in the rest areas – Charlotte will work from OTE side on this
 - g. May meeting agenda –invite Savannah Harrell
 - h. June – joint meeting with AGS chapter
- XI. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops (15 min)
- Feb 5, 1-4 conference call, grant writing workshop
 - May 4 (Wed), 9-12 State Capitol during the Oregon Heritage Conference, Marker cleaning and repair workshop May 7
 - June 24, 1-4 location, Oregon City? Cahnemah – workshop?
 - Oct 14, 1-4 – decide once other commissioners are seated
- XIII. Meeting Adjourned