

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Minutes

October 17 & 18, 2019



TOUR: October 17, 3:00 p.m.

The tour site has rough terrain as it is an outdoor cemetery. Translation services may be made by calling (503) 986-0690 at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Location: Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Commercial and Hoyt Streets SE Salem

BUSINESS MEETING: October 18, 8:30 a.m.

The meeting site is accessible to people with disabilities. Special accommodations for the meeting – including translation services – may be made by calling (503) 986-0690 at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Location: North Mall Office Building, 725 Summer Street NE, Salem

Joint meeting of commissions

Meet	8:30
1. Opening remarks and introductions	9:00
2. Commission/Committee member training	9:15
3. Oregon Cultural Trust	10:00
Break	10:20
4. Preservation & Heritage Plan Issues & Goals Discussion	10:30
5. Presentation of Astoria & Independence Case Studies	11:00
6. Working Lunch – Heritage Community Disaster Preparation Initiative	11:40

OCHC Business Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions 1:00
 - a. Excused – Bev Power
 - b. Present – Milo Reed, Charlotte Lehan, Scott Stuemke, Sarah Silbernagel
 - c. Staff – Jamie French, Kuri Gill
 - d. Audience – Stan Clarke, Steve Sprenger
2. Approval Minutes
 - a. Stuemke Moved to approve, Lehan seconded - approved
3. Public Comment
 - a. None
4. Acknowledging unmarked graves document
 - a. No draft from Bev Power, Charlotte feels it could be helpful to provide information about the options, thinks to consider about the marking of unmarked graves, and cost items. Would like to include examples. Should it be one marker from the family, what would be most appropriate? When a group or individual. Oregon Nikkei could be a resource for the marking of the Japanese infants. Some cemeteries crosses to mark unmarked graves, 12x12 cement marker. Discuss draft at next meeting.
5. Criteria for grants to mark unmarked graves
 - a. Would like to see the reasons for the decisions? Some markers might be worthy of a larger contribution. If we set specific criteria, it would be hard to address specifically for

individual cemeteries. Put a statement in the grant guidelines, about specific budget. No Specific criteria should be included in the next grant cycle.

6. Confederate flags in historic cemeteries discussion

- a. Symbols are important. Current political climate, the confederate flag is being used to intimate and threaten people. Question why people are putting flags on the graves. It hasn't come up in Charlotte's cemetery. She puts us ones on historic cemeteries. World making a statement or a policy draw it out? Point to be discussed, confederate flag on US memorial day is not the same as memorial day.
- b. Stan Clarke – Places flags on Powell grove cemetery, if there is a confederate with a marker that state they are, then they should have a confederate flag on the burial on US memorial day.
- c. Steve Sprenger – We are historic cemeteries, the civil war was part of our history, something to learn from, not be afraid of. Things we need to learn about. Need learn about it and understand it, and hopefully we will never do something that silly again. We need to take that into consideration into each one. Can this be applied to other conflicts and they shouldn't be included because of this. Every time we turn around the history books should be thicker and thicker. The people in the Shedd Cemetery have contributed to local history, have 48 veterans and the cemetery. We would like to include more history about each of the individuals. Officers and enlisted, etc.
- d. Charlotte – Comments about history, a lot of value judgements to Memorial Day. It does get into the variables of the conflicts. Two of three confederates married into union.
- e. Milo – Something he discussed in grad school, where these views or actions out of line at the time.
- f. Steve Sprenger – Has a black family buried in the cemetery. In the records, noted as a colored family.
- g. Discussion - commission position? Guidelines? Ask questions?

7. Commissioner action reports and issues for the commission

Milo Reed – Timbers army exhibit at OHS, Library looking at the Oregon Journal database, owned y Multnomah County library.

Sarah Silbernagel – work has been demanding. Will send Ritter cemetery story. Ensured cemetery was not part of a project area. Hyatt Cemetery, mix of active cemeteries, etc. Need to still meet with Shawn and Rory.

Scott Stuemke – Nothing to report

Charlotte Lehan – Missing from the thing today Historic Marker Committee, have them be part of the conference, Heritage Tree people, Oregon Travel Information council.

8. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

February 7 – Conference call, Salem

April 22 – with Oregon Heritage Conference, Corvallis

June 5, 2:00-3:00pm – Conference call to approve grants

July 16 meeting & July 17 workshop

October 15 -17 – Joint with the CAO and NPS workshop, likely to change to end of September.

9. Meeting Adjourned

Stuemke move, Lehan 2nd, approved