

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Minutes

February 8, 2019

BUSINESS MEETING: 1:00 p.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: Conference Call or 725 Summer St NE, Salem, Oregon Rm 124B

I. Welcome and Introductions (1:00)

Charlotte Lehan

Present: Milo Reed, Charlotte Lehan, Mike Leamy, Mark Petrie, Scott Stuemke, Sarah Silbernagel

Excused: Bev Power

Staff: Kuri Gill, Jamie French

Public: Jean Edwards, Judy Goldmann, Ginny Mace

II. Approval Minutes (1:05) – Mike Lemay moves to approve, Mark Second

- approved

III. Public Comment (1:10) Comment limited to five minutes

Judy Goldmann – Hillsboro, presentation at previous meeting shared their concern for the Methodist meeting house church and historic cemetery on the site. The land has been purchased, the company has conceded to build a monument on a small stretch of the property. Because there has been no physical evidence of the structure and cemetery location, they haven't been able to convince the property owner and the city to set it aside in a larger way.

Charlotte – Question about what has gone on to date. Judy knows that there have been a number of digs and ground penetrating radar and only in the portion where they think the graves are and also did random test holes. Nothing has been found. She is told that there will be a professional archaeologist on site during construction in the area. Judy sent her the drawings, it does look like a narrow strip that doesn't go into the whole area.

Jean Edwards – lives near Old Scotch Church where other Meek Family members are buried. Is the commission willing to send a letter of record indicating that the cemetery is there and it is listed with the OCHC?

Ginny Mapes – It seems the earlier excavation was done before the construction of the plant. They would like to see more done.

Erin Hague – submitted in writing.

Charlotte – What is the timeline? Judy - There is one week for comment to city planning.

Cricket Soules – Received a travel grant from Travel Oregon for signage. They collaborate with so many groups and with the city as partner, that was a positive for the application. Continue to work with 8th and 9th leadership class, breakout boxes are a thing to look at, like an escape room, but without locking students in a room. They will be doing one on civil war. One student is working on studying a woman who was a significant religious leader, who is buried in Marshfield unmarked. Sharing the stories in cemeteries is on track and just for what people are interested in.

Added discussion on Methodist meeting House Cemetery – Mark would like to discuss, Charlotte proposed discussing now.

Charlotte would like to send a letter to the planning commissioners.

Scott – can facilitate the access to the maps, it might be good to look at the NR listing for the neighboring house.

Charlotte – Write a letter of concern. Request delay.

Mike – Anything in the letter will rely on discovery. They may not discover anything, and the removal of the oak tree may have removed any remains of the cemetery.

Charlotte – send a letter

It is on our records at a listed cemetery, 2700
Express concern about what is appropriate, the monument if in the right place, and right size.

Express that the monitoring follows the guidelines and in the location of lot 2700
Mike agrees – may or may not be help to include the sensitivity of the question from the Tribal and historic perspective.

Continue Tribal consultation throughout the process

If there is a discovery, the community would like the memorial in the area of discovery versus where it is now.

Kuri instructed to write the letter.

IV. Grant timeline (1:10)

- a. Grant review volunteers
- b. Sarah Silbernagel, Mark Petrie

V. Legislation (1:20)- update of few pieces of legislation.

VI. Promotion of Historic Cemeteries Planning (1:30)

- i. Historic Cemeteries, Clues to Community Mysteries – Stories of how you can sleuth out information about the community in historic cemeteries.
- ii. Every Marker has a Story – Stories about the art and inscriptions of historic markers.

b. The commission will find stories fitting these messages and share them through the blog and video.

c. 2020 Suffrage Centennial

Sarah – has been taking photos and will research them

Charlotte – history pub on unmarked graves, surprised at the number of opportunities to mark unmarked graves. Working with the local sister city to get Japanese babies marked. Maybe have a discussion later about a position paper or bulletin.

VII. SOLVE outreach planning (1:50)

Kuri Gill

Reach out to historical societies,

- a. Contact scouts,
- b. College professors
- c. Workshops on how to do the clean-up day, webinar – record and have online
- d. Neighborhood associations
- e. Local landmarks commissions

VIII. Oregon Heritage Summit 2019 (2:10)

Kuri Gill

a. Commission reminded to encourage people to attend the summit.

IX. Acknowledging unmarked graves (2:15-2:30)

X. Commissioner Comments/Reports (2:30)

All

Mike – excused

Milo – Will be working with Cricket Soules on recognizing Alonzo Tucker, African American lynching project in Coos Bay. Wrapping up the oral history project in OHS.

Mark – Attended a clean-up at Lakeside Pioneer Cemetery. They have had problems of dumping just outside the cemetery and homeless camps. They worked for 4 hours, and had a big pick-up truck full of garbage. In conversation about with city manager about joining solve day. Have been working with Cricket Soules on the puzzle box and other items.

Sarah – Working on the remote sensing document. Envisioning a discussion of methods not just GPR, how they work, things that people should ask for and what they should expect from who they hire. Will talk with Rory Becker at EOU and Shawn Steinmetz at Umatilla, Patrick

O'Grady at UO. Kees cemetery in Weston, will follow up on interest in research. Taking photos for the every marker has a story.

Scott – Touched bases with Deschutes Historical Society. He is also on the board for Deschutes Pioneer Association, Historical Society annual meeting. Will be there and pitch the OCHC.

Charlotte – We overlook google earth and you can go back in time. In certain months it shows graves very clearly. Dedicating two new heritage trees, cable trees on the Willamette, in Wilsonville.

- XI. Appointments – Appoints will be at the Spring meeting (3:00) Kuri Gill
- XII. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops (3:05) Kuri Gill
 - February 8 – Conference call, Salem
 - April 25 Summit – Medford, meeting in the morning, 8:30-11:30
 - July 18 (meeting) & 19 (workshop) – Florence?
 - October 17 (meeting) & 18 (joint commission meeting)
- XIII. Meeting Adjourned (2:55)

*Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Meeting
Fri, Feb 8, 2019 12:45 PM - 4:00 PM PST*

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