

# Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

## Minutes

June 5, 2020



### OCHC Business Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions – Welcome to Valerie Vines Magee 1:04
  - a. Waved the reading of the introduction.
  - b. Commissioners: Bev Power, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel, Charlotte Lehan, Valerie Vines Magee Unexcused: Scott Stuemke
  - c. Staff: Kuri Gill, Jamie French
  - d. Public: None
2. Approval Minutes (October & February)
  - a. October: Moved: Reed Second: Lehan Approved
  - b. February: Notes for discussion, no quorum, so not official minutes
3. Public Comment
  - a. No public
4. Acknowledging unmarked graves document
  - a. Reed, no comments. Looks reasonable.
  - b. Lehan – haven't seen the updated version. But, nothing more than what she said had commented on before. Guidelines for mowing and other care might impact the longevity of the cards. In general, 3-5 years. Laminated ones will last a long time, but need to be cleaned every once in a while.
  - c. Magee – Just editing, whole idea is fine. The only thing really started over was the last paragraph.
  - d. Sarah – Looked great, the photos were helpful. It might be good to mention how long they may be good for, when might they need to do it again.
  - e. Should be a heritage bulletin.
  - f. Plan – Bev will adjust and run by everyone again and complete by next meeting.
5. SOLVE Update
  - a. Staff shared plan to do outreach with SOLVE to gather more interest from the cemeteries for the clean-up day. We will attempt a series of talks about invasive species and native plants. These are things the SOLVE can support work on and provide materials for.
  - b. Position papers. This issue is addressed in a couple position papers, but not directly. It is worth investigating a position paper on this. Methods of eradication, etc.
  - c. NRCS practice sheets might be a model. A position paper that this is an issue for historic cemeteries. Here is the technical advice for invasives in your area. Sarah is willing to gather. It could also include the tree issues and over-trimming.
6. OPRD, Oregon Heritage, Budget update
  - a. Announced the layoffs and budget situation.
7. Grant Approval
  - a. Milo no comments
  - b. Charlotte – First time involved in the grant review. Everyone involved was deeply involved in trying to put themselves in the position of each applicant, discussed each one deeply. Impressed with the work of the reviewers. Learned from the other people. One of the take-aways from Jamie what how to evaluate if a dead tree should be removed or just made safer.
  - c. Val – Kuri's system came up with a good list. Learned a lot from Charlotte.
  - d. Sarah - Thanks for the work. Would like to reach out more in her area.
  - e. Jamie – Love grant review. This is a fun process. Encourage people to fill out the application thoroughly. With what we had this year so there were some things that

- made one stand out over another.
- f. Bev – Sends a mass email, offers to help. Suggested that we include that commissioners can help when we announce.
- g. Motions –
  - i. Do not approved Nehalem Cemetery – Silbernagel moved, Reed seconded, Vines Magee is not voting on this due to conflict of interest. Approved
  - ii. Approve Wilsonville Boones Ferry to approve – Silbernagel moved, Reed seconded. Lehan recusing herself from this. She is tangentially involved, but helped them with their application. Approved
  - iii. Rest of the slate as recommended – Lehan moved to approve the balance of the funded projects. Reed second. Approved.
- 8. Cemetery Stories Discussion & Workplan
  - a. It might be helpful to choose one specific mechanism so there is a more direct ask of people.
  - b. One of the grant applications this year was putting up a marker for a person was a really great story. Telling her story could be a blog post. Ask them to do it. It is great to get those stories out there.
  - c. Silbernagel, will stop being afraid and will send hers in.
  - d. Suggested asking Cricket Soules to share her suffrage recognition effort.
  - e. Power will do one on the first registered nurse in the state of Oregon.
  - f. Reed suggested reaching out to others doing this research, connect to cemeteries, and promote their work.
  - g. Lehan will do a few of these. Also, interested in Cenotaphs – markers were people are not buried. Vanport related cenotaphs? Perhaps there is a story there.
- 9. Commissioner action reports and issues for the commission
  - a. Power – No cemetery work. Still trying to hunt down the Central Point cemetery operators.
  - b. Lehan – Discussed Memorial Day with COVID. Regular flow of traffic and regular amount of decorations. People still wanted to donate, even though they hadn't sent a request.
  - c. Silbernagel – GPR information is still being worked on.
  - d. Magee – Discussed interest in the variety of staffing for cemeteries, city cemetery has no staff. Memorial Day was canceled and people did it anyway.
  - e. Reed - Library shut down in march, getting familiar with databases. Exploring ancestry, etc. Murder of George Floyd is weighing heavily on him. Had to cease working with other organizations. This moment is the time to bring back the confederate flags issue. Would like us to bring back the discussion and rethink a position paper.
- 10. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops
  - July 16 Teleconference meeting
  - October 15 -17 – Joint with the CAO and NPS workshop, likely to change to end of September. This may still be possible, but could be teleconference.