

# Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

## Minutes

July 15, 2021



BUSINESS MEETING: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### OCHC Business Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions – 1:02
  - a. Excused – Charlotte Lehan, Bev Power, Shawn Steinmetz
  - b. Commissioners – Milo Reed, Sarah Baylinson, Lisa Sears, Sarah Silbernagel
  - c. Staff – Kuri Gill
  - d. Public – Abby Warren, Anna Mehrer, Judi Jarosh
2. Approval Minutes (June) 1:05
  - a. Moved: Silbernagel 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sears, Approved
3. Public Comment – for items not on the agenda 1:10
  - a. None
4. OPRD update 1:25
  - a. Staffing/planning update
    - i. OPRD is still evaluating the budget and the forecast, the next forecast is September. We hope to begin hiring positions back soon.
  - b. African American MPD – OPRD was award a grant to complete the African American MPD. We are seeing some cemeteries document more burials of people of color, perhaps we will find more cemetery stories in this process.
5. Cemetery Stories Discussion & Workplan 1:35
  - a. Update from each commissioner on their work on this project
    - i. Lehan - absent
    - ii. Reed – 1<sup>st</sup> story went live. A couple of stories, turns out the people aren't buried in historic cemeteries.
    - iii. Silbernagel – Nothing on this topic, just remembered about an African American burial.
    - iv. Steinmetz - absent
    - v. Power - absent
    - vi. Sears – Looking at some people and will share ideas in the future.
    - vii. Baylinson – Someone interested in looking at. Little Joe Monahan, a trans man in the late 1800s. Ranch owner, how he lived, etc. Rockville Cemetery, Malheur County.
    - viii. New ideas?
6. Invasive Species discussions 1:45
  - a. Document is not ready. Will try to send it to everyone by mid-August. Really important right now. Use native grass more than stuff that needs irrigation.
7. October meeting plan 1:55
  - a. In person! What and where?
  - b. Newly historic cemeteries to visit, Astoria, Clatsop Community College program in the cemeteries for the presentation
8. Heritage Bulletin updates 2:05
  - a. Bev submitted and update to #1, will do #4
  - b. Charlotte #3, Milo #12, Sarah S #8
9. Heritage and Preservation Plan review and discussion 2:15
  - a. Discuss plans and see how the commission work can support these goals
    - i. Issue 3 – Public education – a new person coordinating a cemetery group, came to the commission last, so getting the message out more about how the commission is here to help. A heritage bulletin on where you go to learn about the commission, the resources out here. Perhaps have a contact in the areas of the state that are resources – maybe a list.
    - ii. Tourism – interested in a coastal cemetery trail, find local tourism on the

- cemetery commission page – or work Travel Oregon to host.
- iii. Grant presentation was good and addresses 8
- iv. A relief to have the heritage plan second – shorter
- v. Issue 7 – preservation, rehabilitation – disaster preparedness, climate changes impacts. Cemetery archives. Present to the cemetery association of Oregon, digitization of cemetery records.
- vi. Goal 1 – heritage plan, umbrella organization – opportunity for BIPOC people to connect and network. Heritage could provide space at a conference to have BIPOC affinity group session.
- vii. Oral Histories – isn't on place that lists all that have been done. Better coordinate knowing who and what around the state. OHS, digital hub? The role of Oregon Heritage to create space for networking and informal conversations.

10. Commissioner action reports and issues for the commission 3:00

- a. Lehan – absent
- b. Reed – Addressed in the earlier reports.
- c. Silbernagel – Addressed in the earlier reports.
- d. Steinmetz - absent
- e. Power – absent
- f. Sears – Nothing to report
- g. Baylinson – Planning to reach out to the newly designated cemeteries for the state law.

11. Items for future meetings 3:15

- a. Ideas – bring in the meeting topics from the plan discussion; Milo share a research example and methods;

12. Upcoming Meetings & Workshops 3:20

October 14, 2021 - afternoon meeting, evening event, Astoria  
 February 4, 2022 – online

April 27, 2022 in the morning – during the Oregon Heritage Conference in Corvallis

XIII. Meeting Adjourned 3:30