



**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Meeting  
Friday, February 3, 2023  
Zoom Meeting**

State law established the seven-member Commission to maintain a listing of all historic cemeteries and gravesites in Oregon; promote public education on the significance of historic cemeteries; and help obtain financial and technical assistance for restoring, improving and maintaining their appearances.

**MINUTES**

**Friday, February 3, 2023**

*Location: Zoom Meeting*

<b>Members Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kuri Gill, OPRD</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Silbernagel, Commission Chair (Acting)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Baylinson, Commissioner</li> </ul>	<b>Guests:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peggy Drake, Commissioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Keeler</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnny Edwards, Commissioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chelsea Rose</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Sears, Commissioner</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shawn Steinmetz Commissioner</li> </ul>	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milo Reed (excused)</li> </ul>	

**1. Commission Business 1:00 p.m.**

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
  - i. All members who were present introduced themselves.
  - ii. Kuri welcomed attendees listening to Zoom meeting
- b) Approval of October 20, 2022 Minutes

**ACTION: Commissioner Sears moved to approve the October 20, 2022 Minutes. Commissioner Steinmetz second. The motion passed, 6-0.**

- c) Approval of February 3, 2023 Agenda

**ACTION: Commissioner Steinmetz moved to approve the February 3, 2023 Agenda. Commissioner Sears second. The motion passed, 6-0**

**2. Public Comment – 1:10 pm - None**

**3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update – 1:20 pm - Kuri Gill**

- a) Heritage update (Information)
- b) Land Acknowledgment update (Information)
- c) Oregon Heritage Summit

**4. Commission Positions & Roles – 1:30 pm - (Information) - Kuri Gill**

- a) New commissioners appointed
- b) Dirk Siedlecki recognition

**5. Association for Gravestone Studies – 1:40 pm - (Information) - Bob Keeler**

- a) Bob Keeler provided information about the national historic cemetery organization.

**6. Cremains Recovery Following Wildfire – 2:00 pm - (Information) - Chelsea Rose**

- a) Chelsea Rose, an archaeologist with Southern Oregon University presented about the process of recovering human cremains following a fire.

**7. Break – 2:30 pm**

**8. Project Updates - 2:35 pm - (Information)**

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting. Black History Month, Japanese American Day of Remembrance, Women’s History Month, Volunteer Appreciation Week
  - i. An idea from the last meeting is the anniversary of Willamette Memorial Cemetery, would one of the commissioners be willing to look into this?
- b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz
- c) Invasive Species Project – Sarah Silbernagel
  - i. Sarah Baylinson moved to accept changes to Bulletin concerning evasive plan species in cemeteries.
  - ii. Shawn Steinmetz second the motion. Changes accepted unanimously.
- d) Heritage Bulletin Updates

**9. Discussion Items – 3:00 pm - (Discussion) – Kuri Gill**

- a) Access to cemetery records – There is legislation that requires access to the cemetery, but none that requires access to records. This is a privacy issue for recent burials, but for older ones, less so. Commission will discuss pros and cons of this kind of action.

**10. Grant process (Discussion)**

**11. Items for Future Meetings – 3:30 pm - (Planning)**

- a) April meeting planning – Thursday event, Friday morning tour, cemetery workshop, etc.
- b) ~~June~~ July meeting planning – Thursday event, Friday morning tour, etc.

**12. Reports: Commissioner Action and Issues – 3:45 pm - (Information)**

- a) Lisa Sears – cemetery group taking winter break but putting together cemetery stories. Reported former commissioner Michael Leamy put out a book in January called “Among the Stones: Life in the Cemetery”
- b) Sarah Baylinson – Helping to plan April meeting and setting up speaker for it
- c) Shawn Steinmetz – doing GPR project associated with Forest Grove Indian Training School, small section of cemetery where some of the students had been interred, working on remote sensing paper
- d) Peggy Drake – committee at her cemetery doing a lot clean up due to high winds

- e) Johnny Edwards – a lot of kids have been involved in the cemetery- one wanting to train hawks in one and in the other Eagle Scouts are in Masonic Cemetery doing clean up and making benches. Trying to figure out a way for kids to get involved in helping cemeteries.
- f) Sarah Silbernagel – working on mainly evasive species bulletin and communicating with Wallowa History Center about how to do a cemetery clean up day, how to get grants

### **13. Commission Planning Calendar – 4:00 pm - (Information)**

- a) February 3, 2022 – Teleconference
- b) April 6-7, 2023 – Location TBA, Thursday afternoon meeting, evening event, morning tour
- c) June, 2023 – teleconference, grant approval only
- d) July 20-21, 2023 - Location TBA, Thursday afternoon meeting, evening event, morning tour
- e) October – TBA, likely October 19-20, 2023 Jointly with SACHP, OHC and HARC.

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