



Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Tillamook Bay Community College

4301 3rd St, Tillamook, OR 97141

Rooms 214-215

Online

Friday, July 21, 2023

Bay City Cemetery

7555 Doughty Road, Tillamook, OR

Draft Minutes

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Business Meeting: 1:00pm

In Attendance:

• Sarah Baylinson, Commission Chair	• Kuri Gill, OPRD
• Sarah Silbernagel, Commission Vice-Chair	• Koren Tippet, OPRD
• Peggy Drake, Commissioner	Guests
• Milo Reed, Commissioner	• Dave Pinyerd
• Shawn Steinmetz, Commissioner	• Bernadette Niederer
• Johnny J. Edwards, Commissioner	• Elissa Bullion
• Lisa Sears, Commissioner	

1. Commission Business

a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)

b) Approval of April 6, 2023 & May 22, 2023 Minutes (**Action**)

ACTION: Commissioner Sarah Silbernagel moved to approve the April 6, and May 22, 2023 Minutes. Commissioner Lisa Sears seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

c) Approval of July 20, 2023 Agenda (**Action**)

ACTION: Commissioner Sarah Silbernagel moved to approve the July 20, 2023, Agenda and Commissioner Lisa Sears seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

2. **Public Comment:** *This is the time for the public to address the Commission. If you wish to make public comment on an item on the agenda you can choose to make your comment either when the item is heard, or during this allotted time. Although written testimony is not required, it is suggested that 15 copies be provided to the Commission Assistant prior to the meeting. **Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes.***

No Comments

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update given by Kur Gil

- a) Heritage Update (Information) Update on consolidating and moving everyone at HQ to the first floor and purging, getting records ready to scan and make digital.
- b) On Legislative Level – we ended up getting two positions and one will assist the preservation group and will be doing some of the work that Koren has been doing i.e. survey records processing and compliance process. One is for an Archives person to help with some of the information processing in support for our database creator and being able to pull info from the database as opposed to having the database creator do that.

There were a couple of bills related to Historic Property to extend the property tax assessment but was not approved, however, a bill did pass that created the requirement for the Revenue Office to do a study in regard to property tax assessment and getting a tax credit program, grant programs are also on the table.

Oregon Main Street Revitalization Program was funded again and we think it will be about \$10M.

The other legislative act was related to our budget and it was improving our technical access to a GIS based program and that did not go well but it is still on the table and it is very important and will help the staff.

The Heritage Bulletin designs were updated and there are two new bulletins coming up soon from the work that Dave Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer, Historic Preservation Northwest, have completed. Had a miscommunication with people, we did the redesign but did not get the invasive species bulletin done. I will do a 3 package and we will release it and make a big deal out of it.

4. Wood Marker Preservation Bulletin Update (Information) – Dave Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer

Presenting ways of preserving wooden cemetery grave markers using examples from various cemeteries. A question and answer time ensued after the presentation.

5. Physical Anthropology Presentation and Conversation (Information) – Elissa Bullion, State Physical Anthropologist

New position with the State and she is getting the word out about her work with Burials and Preservation. She is a liaison between the State and the 9 recognized Tribes. Her office does not work with modern burials or crime scenes, only with native American ancestral remains. A question and answer session ensued after the presentation.

6. Cemetery Permits (Information) – Koren Tippet

- a) Gilmore Family Cemetery holds a permit.

The meeting participants took a 10 minute break 2:35-2:45

7. Project Updates (Information)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting. Hispanic Heritage Month, Archives Month, Historic Cemeteries Month, Indigenous People's Day.

Ideas -

Ask Haley to do one about the invasive species, native plants.

- b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz, aiming for the October meeting.
- c) Heritage Bulletin Updates – Design updated, links updated and a little editing.

8. Dark Sky Preservation Presentation (Information) – Dr. Bill Kowalik, Chair DarkSky Oregon.

Kuri asked if they would like to have more information about this subject in future.

Kuri asked and the Commissioners agreed she will connect the organization with the Cemetery Association of Oregon about this subject.

9. Heritage Conference Input (Discussion) – Kuri Gill

April 17 - 19 next year for the first time since 2018 will be in-person. It happens every other year and is a 3 to 4 day event and is intended to serve all disciplines of heritage.

It will be in Forest Grove next year. We aim to move it around the state and we chose Forest Grove this time as there are a lot of heritage things happening, heritage organizations and college groups within an hour or less of this city. Affordability, promoting the community.

This year they are going to attempt to have scholarships for people that have to travel farther than others. Try to keep it inclusive.

She wants ideas from the group about things happening in the state they may be able to take advantage of, or needs of people they may be able to help.

They put out a formal request for presentations and you can apply for that online and suggestions for sponsors.

Johnny shared that the Library Museum that he cares for is located in Forest Grove and he is sure he could open up the doors for a tour and there is enough room for 100 people in there, with restrooms. He believes he can also get permission for a tour.

At present there is lots of work being done in that area with the Tribes and they could promote that to all of the heritage commissions.

Shawn Steimetz suggested they have room for folks to offer a job fare for networking. Usually there are job boards and posters but this could be a better way to promote.

Sarah Silbernagel suggested maybe having a Dark Skies presentation.

Lisa Sears suggested offering a Work Shop where people come out and learn how to level

headstones.

Shawn Steinmetz suggest to everyone to try and break out of the normal meeting to think out of the box and try to offer not just Heritage but get more presenters to incorporate sessions with archaeologists.

Sarah Silbernagel suggested to bring in examples of archaeological and ditch or bridge work.

Milo wanted to know if they can commemorate the passing of Willie Richardson. Kuri will reach out to the family and find out.

Shawn Steinmetz suggested having a poster section to commemorate the people they have lost and their contributions. Sarah Silbernagel suggested having a QR code on the poster to link to info online about the person.

10. Discussion

- a) Access to cemetery records – Not a lot of action done since last meeting. Kuri suggested this be tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints. Everyone agreed to table.

11. Items for Future Meetings

This was tabled until next meeting due to time constraints.

12. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues

Sarah Silbernagel, did a presentation at the fish trap in Enterprise in April and Kuri gave her the presentation as Kuri could not make it. It was an overview of what the Commission does and how they can help the community.

13. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

- a) October 19-20, 2023 – Wallowa County jointly with SACHP, OHC and HARC
- b) February 2, 2024 – Teleconference
- c) April 17, 2024 – Forest Grove, Wednesday morning of the Oregon Heritage Conference
- d) July 18-19, 2024 – TBA
- e) October 24-25, 2024 – TBA

Shawn Steinmetz made a motion to adjourn the business part of the meeting and Sarah Silbernagel seconded the motion and the business meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Presentation: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Historic Cemeteries and Tourism

Presenters: Nan Delvin, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association
Eileen Nordquist, Local Cemetery Historian

Ed Dreistadt, A Tour to Die For
Kuri Gill, Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Coordinator

Friday, July 21, 2023

Cemetery

Mapping Monuments in Historic Cemeteries Demonstration 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Presenters: Lisa Sears, Tillamook County Cemetery Preservation and History

Please join us at Bay City Cemetery for a brief history of this historic cemetery, how our local volunteers use Find a Grave to GPS and document the cemetery, and the work that was done with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Grant.

The services, programs and activities of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Denise Warburton at (503) 986-0719 or Denise.warburton@oregon.gov at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.