



**OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION
OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
ONLINE**

MINUTES

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

Location: Online

Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IZj7dVpqT2WcJ747SDUs4Q

BUSINESS MEETING: 1:07 pm

Members of the Commission and Oregon Parks and Recreation (OPRD) staff who were present for part or all the meeting included:

• Sarah Baylinson, Commission Chair	• Kuri Gill, Commission Coordinator
• Lisa Sears, Commission Vice-Chair	• Mary Newcomb, OPRD Admin
• Peggy Drake, Commissioner	• Koren Tippet, OPRD Archaeologist
• Johnny Edwards, Commissioner	• Katie Henry, Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator
• Milo Reed, Commissioner	
• Sarah Silbernagel, Commissioner	

1. Commission Business:

- a) Welcome and introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of April 25, 2025, Agenda (Action)

ACTION: Commissioner Silbernagel moved to approve the April 25, 2025 Agenda as presented. Commissioner Sears seconded the motion. Chair Baylinson, and Commissioners Sears, Drake, Edwards, Reed, and Silbernagel voted in favor. The motion passed, 6-0. (Topic starts at 09:48 and ends 11:27).

- c) Approval of February 7, 2025, Minutes (Action)

ACTION: Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the February 7, 2025, minutes as presented. Commissioner Silbernagel seconded. Chair Baylinson, and Commissioners, Drake, Edwards, Reed, and Silbernagel voted in favor. Commissioner Sears recused. The motion passed, 5-0. (Topic starts at 11:28 and ends at 12:36).

2. Public Comment: *This is the time for the public to address the Commission.* (Information)
(Topic starts at 12:37 and ends 14:49) **9:04?**

- a) Cricket Soules of Coos Bay, Oregon
 - i. An organization their cemetery has been involved with has moved on, though large projects remain. They are now partnering with SOLVE.

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update (Information)
(Topic starts at 14:50 and ends 25:53)

- a) Heritage Update – Kuri Gill
 - i. Staff changes: Christine Curran, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, is retiring. OPRD's organizational structure is changing, placing Oregon Heritage in the new, Field and Community Services Division. Staffing changes and reorganizations at the federal level are impacting OPRD, other state and federal agencies, and partner organizations is a variety of ways.
- b) Legislative Update – Kuri Gill

4. Oregon's Cemetery Districts Presentation & Discussion (Information)

(Topic starts at 25:54 and ends 01:14:50)

- a) Mark Knudson, with the Special Districts Association of Oregon shared information about Oregon's Cemetery Districts and Special Districts.
- b) Following the presentation the commission discussed districts locations and possibilities to engage with the association and connect cemeteries to districts.

5. Commission Position & Roles

(Action)

(Topic starts at 01:15:50 and ends 01:23:40)

- a) Chair Selection

ACTION: Commissioner Silbernagel nominated Commissioner Sears for Chair. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Chair Baylinson, Commissioners Reed, Silbernagel, Drake, Sears, and Edwards voted in favor. The motion passed, 6-0. (Topic starts at 01:20:05 and ends at 01:21:54, then starts at 01:22:56 and ends 01:23:03).

- b) Vice Chair Selection

ACTION: Commissioner Sears nominated Commissioner Edwards for the Vice Chair. Commissioner Drake seconded. Chair Baylinson, Commissioners Reed, Silbernagel, Drake, Sears, and Edwards voted in favor. The motion passed, 6-0. (Topic starts at 01:22:19 and ends at 01:23:07).

6. Project Updates

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:23:42 and ends 01:35:57)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting.
- b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz – not present, no update.
- c) Disaster Resilience Action – See meeting packet for outline.
- d) Preservation Plan follow-up – Kuri Gill
 - i. Letter to SHPO to be reviewed next meeting.
- e) Tribal contacts – Discussion was had about obtaining different points of contact to refer members of the public to when questions are asked about tribal members in cemeteries.

7. Cemetery Records Project

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:35:59 and ends 01:39:32)

- a) Bulletin Discussion
 - i. No additional edits requested. Commission Coordinator, Kuri Gill, will begin the formatting process.

8. Upcoming Cemetery Resources

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:39:32 and ends 01:45:06)

- a) Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant
 - i. Applications closed and now under review.
- b) SOLVE Historic Cemeteries Cleanup Support
 - i. Cleanups are underway. Seven cemeteries participated this year.

9. Items for Future Meetings

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:45:06 and ends 01:50:51)

- a) Commission Coordinator, Kuri Gill, will investigate The Gorge and surrounding areas.

10. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:50:53 and ends 02:01:42)

- a) Vice Chair Sears
 - i. Has done a couple of presentations in Tillamook County representing her volunteer group and a bit of the work done by this Commission. Has an ongoing research project that is uncovering more information about the history of local cemeteries. Someone located a small cemetery on their property and wanted to know how to make it legally accessible and protected. Discussion was had that because the cemetery is already dedicated and listed with the commission, under state law, access is required, and an easement could potentially be beneficial.
- b) Commissioner Drake
 - i. SOLVE Cleanup and more land maintenance efforts underway.
- c) Commissioner Edwards
 - i. Has recently been researching local Tribal Cemeteries.

11. Commission Planning Calendar

(Information)

(Topic starts at 02:01:46 and ends 02:03:57)

- a) May 27, 2025 1:00pm – 2:00pm, online grant approval
- b) July 24-25, 2025 – TBA (suggested Gorge Area)
- c) October 16-17, 2025 – TBA Joint meeting with Oregon Heritage Commission, State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, Historic Assessment Review Committee.
- d) February 6, 2026 – Online
- e) April 29, 2026 – Woodburn as part of the Oregon Heritage Conference (April 29 - May 2)

Meeting adjourned @ 3:11 pm