

# Meeting Packet

OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES, OREGON HERITAGE

## Packet Items:

- Agenda - Action
- Draft Minutes – Action
- Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant

## Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

### MEMBERS

- Sarah Baylinson, Prineville (Chair)
- Lisa Sears, Cloverdale (Vice Chair)
- Peggy Drake, Sutherlin
- Johnny Edwards, McMinnville
- Milo Reed, Portland
- Sarah Silbernagel, Pendleton
- Shawn Steinmetz, La Grande

### WORK

The members of the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries meet four times a year in communities around the state. The purpose of the commission is to document and support the preservation of historic cemeteries in Oregon. Any cemetery that includes the burial of at least one person who died before the date that is 75 years before the current date and is listed with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries is considered historic.

### CONTACT

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## Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

May 27, 2025

Online

### Agenda

#### Monday May 27, 2025

Zoom Meeting - [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uZNqghYXQX2C9YqfU0\\_Yvw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uZNqghYXQX2C9YqfU0_Yvw)

#### Business Meeting: 1:00pm

##### 1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of May 27, 2024 Agenda (**Action**)
- c) Approval of the April 25, 2025 Minutes (**Action**)

##### 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.***

##### 3. Oregon Historic Cemetery Grant selection

- a) Summary – Kuri Gill (Information)
- b) Comments from Commission members who were on the committee (Information)
- c) Vote on recommended ranking.

##### 4. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

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

*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 Mary Newcomb at (503) 986-0690 or [Mary.Newcomb@opr.d.oregon.gov](mailto:Mary.Newcomb@opr.d.oregon.gov) at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.*



**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](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**

## 2025 Cemetery Grants

### Heritage and Community Programs, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

#### Approved

Applicant	Project Description	County	Grant Request	Grant Award	Match
Adams Cemetery Association	Relocate a damaged east fence and gate at Adams Cemetery in Clackamas County.	Clackamas	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$6,946
Burch Family Pioneer Cemetery	Construct an equipment shed at Burch Pioneer Cemetery.	Polk	\$7,431	\$7,431	\$1,980
City of Hillsboro	Level and repair high priority headstones in the Hillsboro Pioneer Cemetery.	Washington	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
City of Medford	Repair markers, restore and relevel 22 monuments at IOOF Eastwood Cemetery in Medford.	Jackson	\$4,325	\$4,325	\$4,325
Clatsop County	Rebuild a fence and restoration work to include resetting, repairing and cleaning to approximately 50 gravesites at Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery in Clatsop County.	Clatsop	\$7,058	\$7,058	\$2,373
Dallas Cemetery District	Remove infected birch trees and other trees/limbs that pose a threat to visitors and historic grave markers at the Dallas Cemetery.	Polk	\$9,905	\$3,405	\$3,100
Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association	Repair, reset, and restore twenty-five headstones at Greenwood Hills Cemetery in Portland.	Multnomah	\$5,798	\$5,798	\$2,000
Kings Valley Cemetery Association	Repair and stabilization of 28 headstones in Kings Valley Cemetery in Benton County.	Benton	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,817
Riverside Cemetery	Repair 21 high priority monuments at Riverside Cemetery in Albany.	Linn	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$1,500
Summerville Cemetery District	Complete survey, platting, and geophysical survey and install an information kiosk at Lower Cove Cemetery in Union County.	Union	\$8,033	\$8,033	\$23,683
Turner Area Historical Society	Repair, resettle, or reposition 29 grave markers in Twin Oaks Cemetery in Marion County.	Marion	\$4,450	\$4,450	\$3,411
<b>Number of Applications: 11</b>			<b>\$69,000</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>	<b>\$58,135</b>

## Not Approved

Applicant	Project Description	County	Grant Request	Grant Award	Match
Belle Passi Cemetery	Repair grave markers in the 1st section of Belle Passi Cemetery in Marion County.	Marion	\$7,990		\$1,000
City of Coos Bay	Stabilize and repair 81 grave markers in the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery in Coos Bay.	Coos	\$4,000		\$24,722
Debra Schneider	Remove 12 trees leaning over cemetery and limb up 1 tree at Bridal Veil Cemetery.	Multnomah	\$4,250		\$575
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Assn	Repair and level 14 burial markers at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery.	Lane	\$2,000		\$2,510
Fairview Cemetery Association	Repair headstones at Fairview Cemetery in Marion County.	Marion	\$5,600		\$2,000
Lobster Valley Church of Christ	Repair 12 headstones at Charles Hendrix Memorial Garden in Benton County.	Benton County	\$1,941		\$15
Miller Cemetery Association	Complete phase 1 of marking unmarked burial sites following Ground Penetrating Radar work at Miller Cemetery in Marion County.	Marion	\$4,750		\$2,600
Nehalem Valley Historical Society	Mark the grave of chief of the Nehalem tribe in the Bay City Cemetery.	Tillamook	\$1,550		\$137
Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery	Level headstones and fill depressions in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery.	Jackson	\$8,000		\$5,693
Rock Creek Cemetery Association	Complete exterior building repair of the Rock Creek Chapel at Rock Creek Cemetery in Clackamas County.	Clackamas	\$7,706		\$1,550
Sand Ridge Cemetery Association of Linn County	Repair the shelter building at the Sand Ridge Cemetery in Linn County.	Linn	\$1,000		\$2,500
St Patrick Historical Cemetery	Level and repair headstones at St. Patrick Historical Cemetery in Clackamas County.	Clackamas	\$2,550		\$500
<b>Number of Applications: 12</b>			<b>\$51,337</b>		<b>\$43,802</b>
<b>Grand Totals:</b> (all applications)			<b>\$120,337</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>	<b>\$101,937</b>