

Meeting Packet

OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES, OREGON HERITAGE

Packet Items:

- Agenda - Action
- Draft Minutes – Action
- Historic Preservation Northwest <http://hp-nw.com/>
- Sons of Union Veterans <https://suvchw.org/monuments-and-memorials/state/oregon>
- Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Grants.aspx>
- SOLVE Historic Cemeteries Cleanup Support <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/tools.aspx>

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

MEMBERS

- Lisa Sears, Cloverdale (Chair)
- Johnny Edwards, McMinnville (Vice Chair)
- Sarah Baylinson, Prineville
- Peggy Drake, Sutherlin
- Lindsay Riva Smith, Portland
- 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

Friday, February 6, 2026

Online

Agenda

Friday, February 6, 2026

Zoom Meeting – Register https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F7gTVh7vQMuhPuPjK7AICA

Business Meeting: 1:00 pm

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of February 6, 2026 Agenda (**Action**)
- c) Approval of Oct 16, 2025 Minutes (**Action**)
- d) Approval of Oct 17, 2025 Minutes (**Action**)
- e) Approval of July 24, 2025 Minutes (**Action**)
- f) Approval of May 27, 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. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update

- a) Heritage Update (Information)

4. Cemetery Monument Repair (Information)

- a) Historic Preservation Northwest will report on monument repair work throughout the state over the last few years.

5. Sons of Union Veterans (Information)

- a) Randy Fletcher will share the work they do around the state in historic cemeteries.

BREAK

6. Project Updates (Discussion)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting. Black History Month, Japanese American Day of Remembrance, Women's History Month, etc.
- b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz

7. Upcoming Cemetery Resources (Information)

- a) Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Grants.aspx>

b) SOLVE Historic Cemeteries Cleanup Support <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/tools.aspx>

8. Items for Future Meetings (Discussion)

9. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues (Information)

10. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

- a) April 29, 2026, 1:00-4:00 pm – Woodburn with Oregon Heritage Conference
- b) May TBA, online grant approval
- c) July 16-17, 2026 – TBA, somewhere in the gorge
- d) October 22-23, 2026 – TBA
- e) Feb 5, 2027 - online

11. Adjourn Business meeting

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 Kim Spivey at (503) 986-0609 or Kimberly.Spivey@oprd.oregon.gov at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.



Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

May 27, 2025

Virtual 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 27, 2025

Zoom Meeting - https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uZNqghYXQX2C9YqfU0_Yvw

Attendees:

Lisa Sears, Commissioner Coastal – Chair
Johnny Edwards, Commissioner Willamette Valley
Peggy Drake, Commissioner Southern Oregon
Milo Reed, Commissioner Portland
Sarah Silbernagel, Commissioner Pendleton
Sean Steinmetz, Commissioner La Grande
Kuri Gill, OPRD Commission Coordinator
Koren Tippet, OPRD Archaeologist SHPO

Cricket Soules
Debbie Schneider, Bridal Veil Cemetery Volunteer
Jennifr O'Donnell
Roger Porter, Twin Oak Cemetery & Aumsville Cemetery
Tasia Riley

Business Meeting: 1:00 pm

1) Commission Business (0:28 to 13:10)

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of May 27, 2024 Agenda (Action)
 - i) Johnny Edwards Moves, Peggy Drake Seconds.
 - (1) Peggy Drake, Johnny Edwards, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel, Sean Steinmetz, Lisa Sears all approve. The motion is carried as presented.
- c) Approval of the April 25, 2025 Minutes (Action)
 - i) Sarah Silbernagel Moves, Milo Reed Seconds.
 - (1) Peggy Drake, Johnny Edwards, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel, Sean Steinmetz, Lisa Sears all approve. The motion is carried as presented.

2) Public Comment: (13:10 to 14:19)

- a) No public comments.

3) Oregon Historic Cemetery Grant Selection (14:19 to 32:02)

- a) Summary – Kuri Gill (Information)
 - i) Reviewing the grants were 2 members of the commission and partner organizations with people of expertise who represent these types of organizations or applied in the past.
 - (1) Lisa Sears, Johnny Edwards, Deb Harris, Koren Tippet, and Brandie McNamee
 - ii) Of 23 applications, 11 applications are recommended for funding.
 - iii) The primary purpose of the Grant Program is preservation of cemeteries. We look at trends of applicants in area, times applying, previous awards, and reach out to outliers.
 - iv) There were 8 first time applicants and 4 were selected.
- b) Comments from Commission members who were on the committee (Information)
 - i) In the marker repair conversation, this committee leaned towards monuments that were most damaged or highest level of priority for the organization.
 - ii) Johnny Edwards – enjoyed the process, was informative, interesting to hear the different issues that are related, heart turners, enjoyed the opportunity.
 - iii) Lisa Sears – applications are inspiring to see the work being done around the state, projects with a lot of partners had great class, training themselves, partnering with Mike Lemi to help them, wanting to do it themselves, partnering with university and boy scouts and donating volunteer labor, enjoyed Somerville statement, talk about digitized and maintaining records.
 - iv) Koren Tippet – It is hard to choose between all the applications, good photos and supporting documents which helped the applications stand out, marker repairs prioritizing their need,
 - v) Kuri Gill – The number of letters of support to show other organizations think it's important.
- c) Vote on recommended ranking (Action)
 - Adams Cemetery Association – Clackamas County \$8,000.
 - Burch Family Pioneer Cemetery – Polk County \$7,431.
 - City of Hillsboro – Washington County \$6,000.
 - City of Medford – Jackson County \$4,325.
 - Clatsop County – Clatsop County \$7,058.
 - Dallas Cemetery District – Polk County, asked \$9,905, granted \$3,405.
 - Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association – Multnomah County \$5,798.
 - Kings Valley Cemetery Association – Benton County \$3,500.
 - Riverside Cemetery – Linn County \$4,500.
 - Summerville Cemetery District – Union County \$8,033.
 - Turner Area Historical Society – Marion County \$4,450.
 - i) No questions
 - ii) Motion to approve recommended rankings, Johnny Edwards Moves, Sarah Silbernagel Seconds.
 - (1) Peggy Drake, Johnny Edwards, Milo Reed, Sarah Silbernagel, Sean Steinmetz, Lisa Sears all approve. The motion is carried as presented.

4) Commission Planning Calendar (32:11 to 33:07)

(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-May 2, 2026 – Woodburn as part of the Oregon Heritage Conference



**OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION
OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025
CHACHALU MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER**

MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

Location: Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center, Grand Ronde

Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CR6l2lGRQm6GpLtNoCTOCw

BUSINESS MEETING: 9:07 am

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Lisa Sears, Commission Chair | • Kuri Gill, Commission Coordinator |
| • Sarah Baylinson, Commissioner | • Kim Spivey, OPRD Admin |
| • Peggy Drake, Commissioner | • Koren Tippet, OPRD Archaeologist |
| • Johnny Edwards, Commissioner | • Caitlyn Abrahms, National Register Program Coordinator |
| • Milo Reed, Commissioner | |
| • Sarah Silbernagel, Commissioner | • Shawn Steinmetz, Commissioner |
| | |

1. Commission Business:

- a) Welcome and introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of July 24, 2025, Agenda (Action)

ACTION: Commissioner Silbernagel moved to approve the July 24, 2025 agenda as presented. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. Chair Sears, and Commissioners Baylinson, Drake, Edwards, Reed, Silbernagel, and Steinmetz voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0. (Topic starts at 10:29 and ends 11:32).

2. Public Comment: *This is the time for the public to address the Commission.* (Information)
(Topic starts at 11:33 and ends 12:14)

- a) No public comment submitted

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update (Information)
(Topic starts at 12:15 and ends 22:33)

- a) Heritage Update – Kuri Gill
 - i. Staff changes: Three employees left at the end of June; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Christine Curran retired, and two Limited Duration positions – Heidi Shewchuk and Kirsten Lopez – ended. Ian Johnson has assumed the position of Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Kim Spivey has joined the Heritage Division as an Administrative Specialist.
- b) Legislative Update – Kuri Gill

4. National Register of Historic Places (Information)
(Topic starts at 23:17 and ends 1:45:38)

- a) National Register and Cemeteries in Oregon – Caitlyn Abrahms, National Register Program Coordinator, SHPO, Oregon Heritage
- b) Marshfield Cemetery – Becky Soules, Marshfield Cemetery
- c) Lone Fir Cemetery – Karen Vitkay, METRO

5. Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

(Information)

(Topic starts at 01:46:21 and ends 2:50:57)

- a) CTGR perspectives on cemeteries, burial records, information that can be found by the public and how to work with the Tribes.

Agenda items 6-10 postponed until a later meeting to conserve time

11. Thanks to Outgoing Commissioners

(Information)

(Topic starts at 02:51:33 and ends 2:53:49)

- a) Milo Reed
- b) Sarah Silbernagel

12. Commission Planning Calendar

(Topic starts at 2:53:50 and ends 2:55:48)

(Information)

- a) October 16-17, 2025 – Canby, joint commission/committee meeting
- b) February 6, 2026 - Online
- c) April 29, 2026 – Woodburn with Oregon Heritage Conference
- d) May TBA, online grant approval
- e) July 16-17, 2026 – TBA, somewhere in the Gorge

Meeting adjourned @ 12:01 pm



Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Canby City Hall, Council Chambers

220 2nd Avenue

Canby, Oregon

Online

MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

Location: Canby City Hall, Council Chambers

Zoom Meeting - https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BCtIwOfkSoSkIFDYe6c_g

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

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Lisa Sears, Commission Chair |
| Sarah Baylinson, Commissioner |
| Peggy Drake, Commissioner |
| Johnny Edwards, Commissioner |
| Koren Tippet, OPRD Archaeologist |
| Kuri Gill, Commission Coordinator |

Business Meeting: 9:00am

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of October 16, 2025 Agenda (Action)

ACTION:

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the October 16, 2025 agenda as presented.

Commissioner Baylinson seconded the motion. Chair Sears, and Commissioners Baylinson, Drake, and Edwards voted in favor. The motion passed, 4-0. (Topic starts at 6:02 and ends at 6:48.)

2. Public Comment

- a) No public comment submitted.

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update

(Topic starts at 7:07 and ends at 14:35)

- a) Kuri Gill presented updates on OPRD and the Heritage Division. (Information)

4. Association for Gravestone Studies (Information)
(Topic starts at 14:40 and ends at 33:10)

- a) AGS board member Perky Beisel shared information about the national organization supporting historic cemetery preservation and scholarship. Association for Gravestone Studies [website](#).

5. Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant Report (Information)
(Topic starts at 33:22 and ends at 46:30)

- a) Kuri Gill presented the results of the 2024 Oregon Historic Cemeteries grants cycle.

6. Project Updates
(Topic starts at 47:40 and ends at 1:04:22)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting. Hispanic Heritage Month, Archives Month, Historic Cemeteries Month, Native American Heritage Month, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday.
- b) SOLVE Historic Cemetery Cleanup Days follow up discussion (Discussion)
- c) Oregon Heritage Conference content input (Discussion)

7. Upcoming Cemetery Resources (Information)
(Topic starts at 1:04:24 and ends at 1:04:52)

- a) Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Grants.aspx>
- b) SOLVE Historic Cemeteries Cleanup Support
<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/tools.aspx>

8. Items for Future Meetings (Discussion)
(Topic starts at 1:04:54 and ends at 1:14:55)

9. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues (Information)
(Topic starts at 1:27:40 and ends at 1:34:35)

10. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

- a) February 6, 2026 – Online
- b) April 29, 2026 – Woodburn with Oregon Heritage Conference
- c) May TBA, online grant approval
- d) July 16-17, 2026 – TBA, somewhere in the gorge
- e) October 22-23, 2026 – TBA

11. Adjourn Business Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM



Oregon Heritage Joint Commission/Committee Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2025

Cutsforth's Market

Canby, Oregon – and online

Meeting Minutes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

Location: Cutsforth's Market, 225 NE 2nd Ave, Canby, Oregon

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QNUBo11iSpG8Q_GxYKgHAQ

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Historic Assessment Review Committee (HARC) – Katelyn Van Genderen, Kerry Savage, Matt Froman, Matt Diederich

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) – Peggy Drake, Johnny Edwards, Lisa Sears, Sarah Baylinson

Oregon Heritage Commission (OHC) – Kerry Savage, Libby Provost, Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Randall Melton, Katee Withee

State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) – Heidi Slaybaugh, Gregory Shine, Matt Diederich, Kassie Rippee, Sarah Munro, Gwendolyn Trice, Jacqueline Cheung

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Ian Johnson – Deputy SHPO, **Kuri Gill** – Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator, **Katie Henry** – Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator, **Joy Sears** – Historic Assessment Review Committee Coordinator, **Caitlyn Abrahms** – National Register and State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation Coordinator, **Koren Tippet** – Archaeologist, **Robert Olguin** – Review and Compliance, **Kim Spivey** – Administrative Specialist, **Aspen Kemmerlin** – Archaeologist, **Josh Henderson** – Special Projects Archaeologist, **Evan West** – Survey and Inventory Coordinator, **Denise Frechin** – Administrative Specialist, **Val Ballestrem** – Preservation Bureau Assistant

BUSINESS MEETING: 8:00 am

1. Commission Business

(Topic starts at 1:25 and ends at 22:00)

a) Welcome and Introductions

(Information)

Heidi Slaybaugh, chair of SACHP, called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM and introduced commission and committee members.

b) Welcome from Brian Hodson, Mayor

c) Welcome from Matt Rippee, Deputy Director for Field & Community Services with OPRD

2. Public Comment

(Information)

(22:11 to 23:01)

No public comment submitted.

3. Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

(Discussion)

(Topic begins at 23:10 to 1:01)

a) Katie Henry, Oregon Heritage Commission coordinator, facilitated a discussion to encourage nominations for the Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards.

4. Nomination

(Action)

- a) The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation reviewed a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Arthur Devers House in Portland, Multnomah County. *(Topic starts at 1:01:50 and ends at 1:56:18)*

ACTION: Committee Member Shine moved to forward the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register with minor adjustments as specified; Committee Member Munro seconded. Chair Members Rippee, Diederich, Munro, Trice, Cheung, and Chair Slaybaugh voted in favor. Motion passes, 7-0. *(Topic starts at 1:56:30 and ends at 1:58:45)*

5. Oregon Historic Preservation Plan Update

(Information)

(Topic starts at 2:12:38 and ends at 2:35:55)

- a) Ian Johnson gave a presentation on the purpose of the State Historic Preservation Office and the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan.

6. Oregon Heritage Plan

(Discussion)

(Topic starts at 2:35:57 and ends at 3:33:30)

- a) Katie Henry from Oregon Heritage, and consultants from Kearns and West, offered program information and solicited feedback from the group regarding the Oregon Heritage Plan.

Compliance Presentation

(Information)

(Topic starts at 3:43:22 and ends at 4:26:42)

- a) Robert Olguin of OPRD shared Compliance Bureau connections to the commission/committee work.

7. Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

(Information)

(Topic starts at 4:27:05 and ends at 5:15:37)

- a) AASLH's Vice President of Research and Engagement John Garrison Marks presented to the Commission on National 250th efforts, AASLH research priorities, and advocacy-related tools and resources based on recent strategic plan update.

8. Special Assessment Property Tax Program

(Information)

(Topic starts at 5:23:35 and ends at 5:37:15)

- a) Joy Sears with OPRD presented information about the Special Assessment Property Tax Program.

9. Oregon Cultural Trust

(Discussion)

(Topic starts at 6:08:20 and ends at 6:34:45)

- a) Oregon Cultural Trust Board Chair Sean Andries and Oregon Cultural Trust Manager Aili Schreiner shared information about the trust.

10. Closing remarks

(Information)

ACTION: SACHP Chair Member Kassie Rippee moved to adjourn the meeting. All SACHP members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.