

Meeting Packet

OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES, OREGON HERITAGE

Packet Items:

- Agenda - Action
- Draft Minutes – Action
- 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)
- 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

Koren Tippet Koren.Tippett@oprd.oregon.gov (971) 304-4737





Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

Thursday October 22, 2026

Springfield City Hall

Library Room

225 5th Street

Springfield, OR

Agenda

Thursday October 22, 2026

Zoom Meeting – Register https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wCG3r8WfT5meALsF4XS75g

Business Meeting: 1:00 pm

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of October 22, 2026 Agenda (**Action**)
- c) Approval of April 29, 2026 Minutes (**Action**)
- d) Approval of May 26, 2026 Minutes (**Action**)
- e) Approval of July 16, 2026 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)
- b) Legislative Session Update (Information)

4. C.J. Lake - *Eugene Pioneers: Voices from the Oregon Frontier* (Information)

- a) C.J. Lake will present information on her book *Eugene Pioneers: Voices from the Oregon Frontier*.

5. Elizabeth Rapp - *In The Shadow of Freedom, Robert King Morgan and His Family in Oregon* (Information)

- a) Elizabeth Rapp will present information on her book *In The Shadow of Freedom, Robert King Morgan and His Family in Oregon*.

6. Springfield History Museum – Laurel Grove Cemetery (Information)

- b) Alice Morton will present information on the museum's work with the Laurel Grove Cemetery.

7. Oregon Heritage Plan (Discussion)

- a) Katie Henery, Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator will share the Oregon Heritage Plan update. The commission will discuss how their work relates to the plan.

9. Project Updates (Discussion)

- a) Cemetery Stories – Themes between now and the next meeting: Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday.
- b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz

10. Upcoming Cemetery Resources (Information)

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

11. Items for Future Meetings (Discussion)

12. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues (Information)

13. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

- a) Feb 5, 2027 – online
- b) April 8-9, 2027 – TBA
- c) May TBA, online grant approval
- d) July 22-23, 2027 – Union/Cove

14. Adjourn Business Meeting

Tour: 04:15 pm

Laurel Grove Cemetery Site Visit –

3262 Judkins Rd, Springfield, Oregon. Transportation is not provided.

Friday, October 23, 2026

Tour: 09:00 am

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Site Visit –

1001 E 18th Ave, Eugene, Oregon. Transportation is not provided.

Tour: 11:00 am

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Site Visit –

University St & E 25th Ave, Eugene, Oregon. Transportation is not provided.

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) 986-0690 or Kimberly.Spivey@oprd.oregon.gov at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.



Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries
Thursday July 16, 2026
Rockford Grange Hall
4262 Barrett Drive
Hood River, OR

MINUTES

Thursday July 16, 2026

Location: Rockford Grange, Hood River, Oregon

Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-IVOkqrRRT6H6udQX6F10g

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

Lisa Sears, Commission Chair
Johnny Edwards, Commission Vice Chair
Lindsay Reva Smith, Commissioner
Peggy Drake, Commissioner
Koren Tippet, OPRD Archaeologist
Kuri Gill, Commission Coordinator

Business Meeting: 1:00 pm

1. Commission Business

- a) Welcome and Introductions (Information)
- b) Approval of July 16, 2026 Agenda (Action)

ACTION:

Vice Chair Edwards moved to approve the July 16, 2026 agenda as presented. Commissioner Reva Smith seconded the motion. Chair Sears, and Commissioners Drake, Reva Smith, and Edwards voted in favor. The motion passed, 4-0. (Topic starts at 4:22 and ends at 4:52.)

2. Public Comment

- a) No public comment submitted.

3. OPRD & Oregon Heritage Update

(Topic starts at 6:25 and ends at 15:10)

- a) Kuri Gill presented updates on OPRD and the Heritage Division. (Information)
- b) Kuri Gill gave an update on the recent Legislative Session. (Information)

- 4. Cemetery Tales** (Information)
(Topic starts at 15:17 and ends at 35:39)
- a) Lisa Commander, Executive Director of the History Museum of Hood River County, and museum volunteers, shared information on their formal Cemetery Tales program.
- 5. Cemetery Landscapes** (Information)
(Topic starts at 35:45 and ends at 1:17:00)
- a) Lindsay Reva Smith, Commissioner, shared information on the historical development of cemeteries as landscapes.
- 6. Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant Report** (Information)
(Topic starts at 1:17:07 and ends at 1:26:11)
- a) Kuri Gill, Heritage Grants & Outreach Manager, will share the results of the 2025 grant funded projects.
- 7. Project Updates** (Discussion)
(Topic starts at 1:26:13 and ends at 1:29:06)
- a) Cemetery Stories – Chair Sears shared that upcoming themes between now and the next meeting include Hispanic Heritage Month, Archives Month, Historic Cemeteries Month, Indigenous People’s Day, Independence Day.
 - b) Remote Sensing Project – Shawn Steinmetz was unavailable to share information about this project today.
- 8. Upcoming Cemetery Resources** (Information)
(Topic starts at 1:29:18 and ends at 1:31:45)
- a) Kuri Gill provided information about Oregon Heritage MentorCorps – Applications are open now to be connected with a mentor to assist with priority setting, volunteer management planning, project planning, etc.
- 9. Items for Future Meetings**
(Topic starts at 1:31:50 and ends at 1:44:06)
- a) Vice Chair Edwards volunteered to share information from his trips to mausoleums and burial locations in Hawaii later this year. Commissioner Reva Smith suggested the topic of affordable burials and resources for people to afford them. Koren Tippet offered to provide information about GPR surveys. Chair Sears expressed interest in learning more about funding issues for cemeteries.
- 10. Reports: Commissioner Actions and Issues**
(Topic starts at 1:44:07 and ends at 2:06:13)
- 11. Commission Planning Calendar** (Information)
- a) October 22-23, 2026 – TBA
 - b) Feb 5, 2027 – online
 - c) April 8-9, 2027 – TBA

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

May 27, 2026

Online

Zoom Meeting - https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qz9IL9t6T_eWH-Z9V824IA

MINUTES

1:08 a.m.

Johnny Edwards, Chair, Sarah Baylinson, Peggy Drake, Lindsay Reva Smith, Shawn Steinmetz

1. **Commission Business:** Introductions, Agenda, Minutes.

(Topic begins at 00:10:29 and ends at 00:17:07)

ACTION ITEM: Shawn Steinmetz moved to approve the May 27, 2026 Agenda. Peggy Drake seconded. Motion passed [Yes: Johnny Edwards, Peggy Drake, Shawn Steinmetz, Lindsay Reva Smith, Sarah Baylinson; No: 0, Recuse: 0]. (Topic begins at 00:15:57 and ends at 00:17:07)

2. **HISTORIC CEMETERY GRANT APPROVAL**

(Topic begins at 00:18:01 and ends at 00:36:44)

Grant information was presented by staff, Kuri Gill. Lindsay Reva Smith, Johnny Edwards and Koren Tippet commented on the grant review committee process and applications.

ACTION ITEM: Shawn Steinmetz moved to approve the recommendations of the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant Review committee. Sarah Baylinson seconded. Motion passed [Yes: Johnny Edwards, Peggy Drake, Shawn Steinmetz, Lindsay Reva Smith, Sarah Baylinson; No: 0, Recuse: 0].

Meeting Adjourned 00:38:42, 1:45p.m.

Public Comment: (Topic begins at 00:17:07 and ends at 00:18:01)

No public comment.

To request information in an alternate format please contact
Kimberly Spivey at Kimberly.Spivey@oprd.oregon.gov.



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

April 29, 2026
Woodburn Public Library
280 Garfield Street
Woodburn, OR

Zoom Meeting – https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ms4_I9IRQIS7tXTmk5QAEw

MINUTES

Called to order: 1:05

Present: Johnny Edwards (vice chair), Sarah Baylinson, Lindsay Reva Smith, Peggy Drake.

Excused: Lisa Sears, Shawn Steinmetz. Staff: Koren Tippet, Kuri Gill, Aspen Kemmerlin, Jamie French

1. **COMISSION BUSINESS:** Introductions, agenda, minutes.
(Topic begins at 00:00:05 and ends at 00:06:05)

ACTION ITEM: Peggy Drake moved to the April 29, 2026 agenda. Sarah Baylinson seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Johnny Edwards, Lindsay Reva Smith, Peggy Drake, Sarah Baylinson. No:0. Recuse: 0. (Topic begins at 00:05:10 and ends at 00:06:05)

ACTION ITEM: Peggy Drake moved to approve the February 6, 2026 minutes. Lindsay Reva Smith seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Johnny Edwards, Lindsay Reva Smith, Peggy Drake, Sarah Baylinson. No:0. Recuse: 0. (Topic begins at 00:06:05 and ends at 00:07:04)

2. **OPRD and OREGON HERITAGE:** Staff provided updates related to budget, staffing, and legislation. (Topic begins at 00:08:00 and ends at 00:12:25)
3. **SHROEDER FAMILY TOMB PRESERVATION PROJECT:** Darrell Gulstrom, genealogist, shared information about the preservation of a badly failing tomb at Norway Cemetery. (Topic begins at 00:12:25 and ends at 00:30:53)
4. **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM:** Aspen Kemmerlin and Jamie Frech provide information about state and federal preservation compliance programs and how they related to historic cemeteries. (Topic begins at 00:31:16 and ends at 01:21:40)

To request information in an alternate format please contact
Kimberly Spivey at Kimberly.Spivey@oprds.org.



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

5. **PROJECT UPDATES:** Lisa Sears submitted an Oregon Heritage Exchange article for the fall, about an opera singer. Lindsay Reva Smith shared about a very successful SOLVE clean up day. And they are exploring a variety ways to address unmarked sections at the cemetery. Exploring support for the Miller Cemetery. *(Topic begins at 01:21:51 and ends at 01:32:13)*
6. **UPCOMING CEMETERY RESOURCES:** Staff shared about SOLVE historic cemeteries clean up support. *(Topic begins at 01:32:15 and ends at 01:34:01)*
7. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:** Cemetery landscape proposed by Lindsay Reva Smith. *(Topic begins at 01:34:01 and ends at 01:34:58)*
8. **REPORTS: COMMISSIONER ACTIONS AND ISSUES:** Johnny Edwards, shared about learning that a cemetery in Yamhill County is discussing a gun range at the cemetery. There are laws against hunting in cemeteries. Commissioners discussed the topic. *(Topic begins at 01:34:58 and ends at 01:38:50)*

Meet adjourned at 2:47 p.m. (01:40:10)

Public Comment: (Topic begins at 00:07:04 and ends at 00:08:00) No public comment.

To request information in an alternate format please contact
Kimberly Spivey at Kimberly.Spivey@opr.d.oregon.gov.