



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Meeting

State law established the seven-member Commission to maintain a listing of all historic cemeteries and gravesites in Oregon; promote public education on the significance of historic cemeteries; and help obtain financial and technical assistance for restoring, improving and maintaining their appearances.

### Commission Members:

Milo Reed (Chair); Sarah Silbernagel (Vice Chair); Sarah Baylinson; Charlotte Lehan; Shawn Steinmetz;  
OPRD Staff: Ian Johnson, Kuri Gill, Koren Tippett, Patti Gray

**Thursday July 21, 2022**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting**

### Meeting Notes

**Members Present:** Milo Reed, Sarah Baylinson, Charlotte Lehan, and Sarah Silbernagel, Shawn Steinmetz, Kuri Gill, Koren Tippett, Ian Johnson, and Patti Gray  
**Members Absent:** Lisa Sears  
**Guests:** None

#### 1. Commission Business

- a. Welcome and Introductions
  - i. Most members were present and introduced themselves briefly.
  - ii. Kuri welcomed public guests listening in and advised we would have official notes posted rather than them selecting any link posted in the chat that might be a phishing attempt.
- b. Approval of May 23, 2022 Agenda (ACTION ITEM)
  - i. Kuri requested to add one item to the agenda regarding review of the cemetery permit program.
  - ii. Shawn moved to accept agenda with the proposed changed.
  - iii. Charlotte seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- c. Approval of May 23, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
  - i. Milo moved to approve as written. Sarah seconded the motion.
  - ii. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 2. Public Comment

- a. The Chair read the charge for the commission and welcomed the public to provide general comment.
- b. He indicated they should virtually “raise their hand” if they wish to make a comment.
- c. After no public comments were requested, the Chair closed the opportunity and moved on to the next agenda item.

### 3. OPRD & Staff Update

- a. Staff Report
  - i. The Heritage section has filled a position to provide technical resources to the Main Street Network, the Mentor Corp and Heritage Bulletins among some duties. Rachel Thomas, joined us in mid-June. Her primary role is to support the Main Street Network Coordinate the Heritage Mentor Core provide, coordinate and track the technical assistance services and programing as well as to promote all of that. That position has not been here for about two years. Off to a very well start.
  - ii. The Heritage Mentor Core is open for applications, to mentor for approximately nine months; Cemeteries qualify for that free program.
- b. Land Acknowledgment Update
  - i. We typically invite a tribal elder or elected official at the beginning of our conferences.
  - ii. Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Administration is collaborating with LCIS Legislative Commission on Indian Services to determine what would be most appropriate to be meaningful.
  - iii. There was a robust conversation of varied opinions. There should be a really good summary meeting minutes over the next couple of months to look for guidance to support the complexity by next meeting there should be solid information.

### 4. Commission Positions & Roles

- a. The Southern Oregon position recruitment failed. Even a tree expert would be great for the grant reviews, or an anthropological. Check your networks out for a candidate.
- b. We did some direct outreach efforts to LCIS and Southern Oregon tribes and advocacy commissions, counties, etc.
- c. Kuri informed the group that the Monthly topic theme September 15 - October 15 2022, is the Hispanic heritage month, October is archology, archives and cemetery month, November is Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- d. Sarah's Facebook post and blog in June was in the top five highest read stories.
- e. Lisa Sears is excused today. Her update is on volunteering in historic cemeteries and the work her group has done. Kuri and Lisa have a few more adjustments to wrap up.

### 5. Project Updates

- a. Cemetery Stories
  - i. Charlotte submitted her headstone application for two unmarked graves who belong to John & Elizabeth Baker they were both born in 1700. She feels they have an amazing story. They had seven children whose graves have been marked with beautiful big monument's, yet mom and dad who are pioneers have unmarked graves.
- b. Invasive Species Project – Sarah will continue working on this.
  - i. Milo pointed out that the Weed Mapper Application used for Urban Sensing should be clearer, so that it is not mixed up other weed maps used to access marijuana. This application enables individuals to collect images for collecting and sharing information on invasive species. The censes is to reply within the month with requested edits, photos etc. Kuri will send out attachment again.
  - ii. Sarah will wrap her story and email it out to the group for edits. If anyone in the group has photos they are welcome.
  - iii. Charlotte stated “we are not just cemeteries; we are neighbors.”
- c. Remote Sensing Projects  
Shawn has been gathering more resources to find unmarked burials. He hopes to have it done before the next grant cycle for Kuri to review.
- d. Invasive spices project

- i. There is now a draft, to create a bulletin, or it could be a position paper?
  1. Kuri would like for the commission to decide either a position paper or a bulletin.
  2. Milo suggested adding Department of Agriculture weed mapper application.
  3. The more edits the better end product and photos are more than welcome.
  4. Kuri will resend the attachment; deadline for edits is: end of August, a deadline email reminder will be sent out. To ensure a draft for the October meeting.

## **6. Grant Report**

- a. There were 15 applications, 14 awarded and 1 canceled for the 2021 Awarded Grants.
- b. The group of cemeteries from Columbia County canceled, because the grant deadline would not allow enough time to coordinate the details to do signs for all of the cemeteries.
- c. Next year with Sara's assistance there will be extra outreach to central Oregon. They are used to not being able to apply, but now with the 75-year rule they will be eligible.
- d. There is going to be a lot cleaning up and repairs on markers. Since preservation is the priority, those usually get selected for funding since it's the focus for the grant program.
- e. Kuri shared additional details on the specific plans at each cemetery.

## **7. Oregon Preservation Plan Presentation:**

The Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Ian Johnson was invited to have a group discussion. He will be writing the 2024 - 2029 Oregon Historic Preservation Plan.

- a. The goal is to create a plan that the entire heritage community can organize around for the five years it will be carried out.
- b. The eight topics were: 1. Disaster and Preparedness & Response, 2. Diversity and Cultural Resource Programs. 3. Diverse Professionals & Volunteers, 4. Incentives, 5. Law and Public Policy, 6. Heritage Communities & Partnerships, 7. Public Engagement Outreach, and 8. Inclusive Engagement. As the group had some discussion, Ian received the the unique perspective from the Cemetery Commission's feedback.

## **8. Items for Future Meetings**

- a. October, 2022 – Meeting will be in Wilsonville, please respond to lodging needs, no venue has been confirmed yet, it can be hybrid or you could be there in person.
- b. Charlotte will be hosting.
- c. The structure has been: Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. meeting, with an evening presentation. Friday morning tour. Then head out depending on travel distance.
- d. Activities: Cemetery mapping conversation, or invasive species, or the plant material is in Corvallis. Shawn offered to do a hand on GPR demonstration while at Charlotte's. Kuri will reach out to Charlotte, Shawn and Sara to move forward on the planning this meeting.
- e. February 3, 2023 – Meeting will be teleconference.
- f. April 6 and 7 in person meeting, location ideas are southern Oregon, but maybe Central Oregon.

## **9. Reports: Commissioner Action and Issues**

- a. Milo – is taking the lead on Goose Hollow there is a hedge stone in someone's yard on the West side. U of O is doing the MPD.
- b. Sarah S – CTUR Clean up Access Road is washed out, due to its not been maintained or managed. Wild roses have been growing five or six years.
- c. Shawn - has in 20 years with private and tribal cemeteries, there hasn't been a burial in years at that cemetery.

**Meeting adjourned 3:12 p.m.**