

MEETING MINUTES
OCHC
Oregon Parks & Recreation NMOB
725 Summer St NE Rm 124
March 23, 2007
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Robert Keeler called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. All the Commissioners introduced themselves and Robert Keeler introduced staff and Kuri Gill, OPRD's new Cemetery Coordinator.

Present: Stanley Clarke, Nick Eddy, Judy Juntunen, Robert Keeler, Diana LaSarge, Dirk Siedlecki, Roger Roper, Kyle Jansson, Kuri Gill, Kim Garner and Kimarie Lamb

Guests: Elizabeth Potter, Ruth Bishop, Linda Van Orden, Bob Biswell, Irene Tessman, plus two

Approval of Minutes: Corrections to the minutes under the additions to agenda should be Inlow Hall instead of Emerald Hall. Bob Keeler said he has other corrections that he would pass on to Kimarie. Dirk moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Stanley seconded. All were in favor to approve the minutes as corrected.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda

Commission Update:

New Appointments: Judy Juntunen nominated Bob Keeler for President. Dirk Siedlecki seconded. There were no other nominations for President. Nick Eddy moved that nominations be closed. Diana LaSarge seconded. All were in favor of the motion. Bob Keeler accepted the position with many thanks.

Dirk Siedlecki nominated Judy Juntunen for Vice President. Stanley Clarke seconded Nick Eddy moved that nominations be closed. Diana LaSarge seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Vacancies: There is a vacancy on the committee and interested parties should contact Kuri. Sights are on someone from the Coast to fill those areas of vacancy by the meeting in Pendleton set for early May if possible. It was suggested that a Tribal member would be a good person to have on the committee. A press release as done before would be a possible idea by targeting certain regions of the state to see what comes in. It was suggested that an announcement be crafted for all positions including the Trails Committee and the Heritage Commission, to collectively attract more interest.

Sub-Committees: The current functioning committees are the Legislative & Legal affairs committee and the Education committee. The Education committees' first task is a booklet/leaflet on Federal, State & Local Laws pertaining to Cemeteries as a reference guide. It will be in print form and online in a printable version.

OPRD Update:

Staff changes: Kuri is the main staff person. Kyle Jansson will still be involved as a back-up and they will assist each other. An effort will be made to coordinate with other commissions and groups within the division. There's a chance to cross-pollinate with other commissions and committees and to keep exploring opportunities for that. There will be a breakfast at the Heritage Conference in Pendleton and there's a chance for committees to come together and meet each other. The breakfast will be on Friday morning on May 4th at 7 a.m.

Workshops:

Heritage Conference overview: begins on Thursday May 3, 2007 which will include an Oral History Workshop and a Reception with 4-H kids talking about their interest in technology & GPS units and how it all works with Century Farms in the Pendleton area. On Friday there will be a workshop after the breakfast discussing Kam Wah Chung. The rest of day will be various sessions and that evening will be the first annual Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards dinner with First Lady Mary Oberst presenting those awards. Saturday will be a day for Cemeteries to be front and center. The workshop will be led by Sally Donovan then there will be a trip out to Olney Cemetery. Registration forms for the Heritage Conference workshops will be online by next week.

Website Content:

A few have been added with links to resources on the internet including preservation briefs from National Parks Services and other links. The contractor's directory is updated and online as a resource including a list of Cemeteries that have submitted their survey on the website. With the Cemetery search engine, information can be obtained through a variety of names and links. A concern would be confidentiality but location information can be restricted by flagging sensitive data which can be mentioned in the survey form or the caretaker can be contacted; for Tribal as well as other cemeteries.

Grants Update:

There were 39 grants offered in the last round and April 30th is the deadline. There are 7 received and just a few left to report. It's also a goal to highlight several of the Grants projects on the website. The efforts for turnaround and the review of the grants process is being streamlined and made to be more efficient as well as offering a training for people to be more successful in completing applications. Depending on the type of project and need, some can receive a cash up-front payment grants which we will be open to but most of them will be reimbursement grants.

Current Projects and Legislation:

SB 746 has been proposed by Senator Byer regarding fees of the Cemetery and Mortuary Board. The Cemetery Association is opposing that bill as they believe that the fee for 25 burials a year is too high. It's a goal to trim back the fee requirement for smaller cemeteries that just do 5 or fewer burials a year.

SB 823, the Oregon Trails Act is out there and the language says that any land use decisions on property within 660 feet of the Oregon Trail would have to be forwarded to SHPO for review before approval and SHPO could regulate and condition any of those actions and there could be cemeteries that have right of-way. The bill may not go forward as worded and there would a local government decision but there would be a process. All the bills are accessible on the Legislature's website at www.oregon.gov and click on Legislative information. The 1959 map or updated SHPO data, which ever is more accurate, would be the source to use for this bill.

Parks has an extra \$50,000 in its budget for expanding the Cemetery Grant program and hopes it goes through but the Co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee came out with their wish list of how budgets should go and their looking at our budget. That amount would have a large impact on a small program like this. It could be several weeks before hearing anything definite on that.

Letter to Eastern Oregon University: Tim Sidel followed SHPO's advice in the process and hired contractors but he was in touch with James Hamrick, who was involved with the beginning part of the process. They want to put together funding for rehab and if funding is obtained the building will be sealed up and will work with the Tribes to do a commemorative plaque. Tribal Archaeologists were not happy with results and felt a thorough research was not done. SHPO Archaeologists filled all the requirements for the permit but along the line there was a communication gap. With this concern raised, in the future if this commission has an appropriate role all members requested to be included in the loop.

Traveling Exhibit: this project will be put on hold but kept in mind. Think about exactly who the audience is and what this exhibit should say. The focus should be kept on the young people and getting them involved. It's also possible to seek outside funding for this project.

Public Comment (3-minute limit per person):

Bob came forward with concerns about the Pioneer Cemetery in Junction City. There now may be an heir in Canada who doesn't want the cemetery but will help in any way he can. The last burial was in 1932 and the Cemetery is inactive. The County CIP overlooked the Cemetery and with the County in a development stage he'd hate to see asphalt over the graves. It's shown as part of a tax lot number but the deed says except for that corner of where the cemetery is located. The Historical Society will fight to gain ownership of it but they need to get the title. There is a fence surrounding it but thinks there may be graves outside of that fence. He asked the commission for help and guidance.

Stanley suggested a quit claim deed from the heir to the Historical Society to transfer ownership. The BLM has files of donation land claims and maps which the cemetery will show up on. If not, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in Portland has microfiche and microfilm of all the donation land claims in detail. Once you get the donation land claim map, have the descendant prepare the quick claim deed and then the county will assign a tax lot number. The BLM can give good resources for assistance. Each time the property is sold there should be some survey made so check the County Road Logs. Also might contact the NW School of Law at the Lewis & Clark College as they are heavy into environmental issues and they are passionate about cemeteries. He commended Bob & his wife on all the work they've done so far.

Judy suggested an overall map of the township, range & section. Public Works has GLO maps and it shows a lot of geographical features and the GLC map shows all land surveyed and the cemetery should show on that map. There are also survey notes that accompany those maps and those are very helpful.

Nick suggested getting a good Attorney that would donate their services.

Robert suggested the Law School at the University of Oregon through the Historical Society and ask for a 3rd year Law student and that person can do the legal ground work. Also try the Lane County Bar Association in Eugene as a resource. He asked for them to let the commission know as things progress.

Irene Tessman said she used to get notification of the meetings but she didn't this time. Also there are three historic groups and she wanted to know if they are all tied together.

Robert answered both questions: due to a staff change that is the reason for that. Also the three groups are tied together. The Oregon Historic Cemetery Commission is this state commission appointed by the Governor and Oregon Pioneer Cemetery Commission was the old name of this Commission which is no longer used. The Oregon Historic Cemetery Association is a Private non-profit organization and this commission works closely with them.

Stanley commented that a report from Multnomah County that Block 14 of Lone Fir Cemetery the land ownership has officially been transferred to Metro to be restored as part of Lone Fir Cemetery. Work will begin with clearing the pavement and replanting grass so the corner of SE 20th & Morrison will become green space again. Other things will be happening in the future which will include some type of memorial to the Chinese.

2007 Meeting Schedule:

Thursday – Saturday, May 3rd-5th, 2007 - Pendleton (in conjunction w/Heritage Conference)

Friday, July 20th, 2007 - Location TBA

Friday, October 5th, 2007 - Vale

Stanley mentioned a Planning Retreat that was once a year and held out at Champoeg and out at the Fairgrounds where meetings were planned for the coming year. No decision was made regarding that.

Chairman Keeler adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.