

State of Wisconsin

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# BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD

## State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board

Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025  
10:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

**I. Welcome and Call to Order (*Interim Board Chair, George W. Christiansen III*)**

Mr. Christiansen called the meeting to order at 10:36am

**II. Roll Call, for Determination of Quorum (*Board Secretary, Paul Reckner*)**

**Board Members Present, Virtual:** Mr. George Christiansen, Dr. Katherine Stevenson, Mr. Lawrence Plucinski, Dr. Paul Reckner, Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Mrs. Amy Wyatt, Mr. Zachary Stencil, Mr. David Grignon (*note late arrival*)

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Sarah Thompson

**WHS Staff Present, Virtual:** Tyler Howe, Taylor Lambrigger, Kay Romanin, Dr. Daina Penkiunas (*note late arrival*)

**Members of the Public Present, Virtual:** Benjamin Neumann, Jeffrey Kloppenburg, Judy Klimt Houston, CJ Ryan, Christina Zweig, Leah Penzkover, Lisa Laschinger, Melissa Mularski, Ryan Duffy, Ryan Greendeer, Scott Utter, Wyatt Cooper. Chris Allswede, Eric Knepp

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Stevenson motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Stencil motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**V. Introduction (*Interim Board Chair, George W. Christiansen III*)**

**VI. Public Comment (*Note: A total of 15 speakers will be allowed a maximum of two minutes each on a first come, first served basis*).**

1 – Judy Klimt Houston

2 – Judy Klimt Houston, on behalf of the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds

3 – Jeffrey Kloppenburg

4 – Scott Utter

**VII. New Business**

**a. Consideration of Applications for Completion and Entry to and/or Removal from the Registry of Interested Persons**

**i. Jean Rehse, St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery (BWK-0016)**

Dr. Stevenson motioned to approve the application to add to the registry. Mr. Stencil seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**ii. Judy Houston, African American burial sites (*Tabled at 5 December 2024 meeting*)**

Discussion surrounding presence of this class of burial sites in the database, how to operationalize this request.

*Note David Grignon and Dr. Penkiunas entered meeting at this point*

Mr. Stencil motions to approve the application, Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**b. Request for Review of Preliminary Draft LRB-0681/P3**

Dr. Stevenson motioned to open discussion on the initial reading of this drafted legislation. Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion included summaries of the proposal, concerns about impacting preexisting process, lack of clarity about the distinction between cemetery law and burial sites law, the lack of ability to rapidly respond to submitted reports at the board level, and concerns about the purview of various boards and departments to administer the burial sites law.

*Chair moves for a 10 minute break.*

*Meeting resumed at 11:40am.*

**VIII. Wisconsin Historical Society Report on Wis. Stat. 157.70 Actions (*WHS Liaison, Taylor Lambrigger*)**

**a. Eligible for Board Action**

**i. Catalogued Burial Site Permit Request Decisions (no actionable items)**

Report given to board. No actionable items.

**ii. Report on Certain Determinations Pertaining to the Disposition of Human Remains and Associated Burial Objects (no actionable items)**

Report given to board. No actionable items.

**iii. Unauthorized/Unpermitted Burial Site Disturbances**

**1. Village Group (TR-0091/BTR-0106)**

*Dr. Stevenson recused herself from this item.*

No action taken.

**2. Indian Park Cemetery (GT-0721/BGT-0349)**

No action taken. Will follow up with the board in June.

**3. Pine Lake Group A (WS0075/BWS-0125)**

No action taken.

**4. Armstrong (PE-0012/BPE-0044)**

No action taken.

**5. Altenburg Cemetery (OZ-0342/BOZ-0009) (WHS #24-1583)**

No action taken.

**6. Courthouse Burials (CR-0828/BCR-0340) (WHS #24-2465)**

No action taken.

**b. Not Subject to Board Action**

Report given to board.

**IX. Chair Report (*Interim Board Chair, George W. Christiansen III*)**

Detailed discussions with DOJ and DOA about a number of issues, reviewed the draft legislation (see above), and assembled documentation and prepared for this meeting.

**X. Unfinished Business**

**a. Officer Elections**

Mr. Christiansen motions to make nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Plucinski seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Christiansen nominated himself to take over as chair. Mr. Stencil nominated himself for vice chair.

Dr. Stevenson motioned to accept the slate of officers with Mr. Christiansen as chair and Mr. Stencil as Vice Chair. Dr. Reckner seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**b. Burial Board Process**

**i. Public correspondence**

Confirmation that all communications for board members must be received **2 weeks** prior to the meeting for consideration for board distribution. WHS will update the website to relay this information.

**ii. Unauthorized disturbances**

Flexibility to make the call as a group – will continue to discuss them in actionable items, board can determine what is appropriate at the meeting.

**c. Clarification of HS 1.04(7)**

HS 1.04(7) is in relation to the appeals process, not quarterly meetings. Discussion on precedent with recording of meetings, why they may or may not record the meetings. This falls into the category of things to clarify with legal counsel about the recording of meetings in general, and discuss at the next meeting.

**d. Review of Unauthorized Disturbances to Burial Sites per Wis. Stat. §157.70**

**i. Payne's Point (WN-0069/BWN-0116)**

Dr. Stevenson motioned that the board draft a strongly worded letter, to be customized appropriately, to be sent to We Energies, WPS, and MGE discussing the violations and requesting formal documentation of responsive policy changes. Dr. Reckner seconds. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**ii. Baskerville Park Mound Group (DA-0116/BDA-0259)**

Mr. Christiansen moves that a strongly worded letter (see above discussion) is written and sent to MGE

Amendments from Dr. Reckner and Dr. Stevenson that the board send a strongly

worded letter to MGE about this disturbance and requests formal documentation of responsive policy changes. Mr. Christiansen accepts those amendments. Dr. Stevenson seconds. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**iii. Elm Grove Cemetery (BSW-0100)**

See (i)

**iv. Picnic Point Mound Group (DA-0121/BDA-0381)**

Mr. Howe discussed the quarterly meeting with SHPO representatives and UW representatives after the special meeting in January. Discussion with Scott Utter following his public comment about policies in place.

No action taken.

**v. Milwaukee Cemetery (MI-0538/BMI-0029)**

See (i)

**vi. Muscoda Mound Group (GT-0056/BGT-0380)**

See (i)

**vii. Orton Park Cemetery (DA-1222/BDA-0175)**

Tabled until more is determined with Vilas Park incident.

**XI. Discussion of Board Preferences for Future Reports from the WITRC, WHS Historic Preservation Office, and Office of the State Archaeologist**

Dr. Reckner motioned to postpone this discussion to the next meeting. Dr. Stevenson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

**XII. Announcements**

Dr. Penkiunas mentioned that this is her last meeting seeing the members of the board.

Dr. Reckner mentioned conflict of interest statements will be emailed out to board members for signing.

Ms. Lambrigger discussed that Garrison Ledbury is in charge of financial reimbursements for board members, and asked the board to watch for and be responsive to his emails.

Mr. Christiansen discussed modality and locations of future meetings.

Mr. Grignon announced the passing of Dr. Overstreet and acknowledged his life and work and collaboration in the state of Wisconsin.

Dr. Rosebrough announced the archaeological consultants training on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Christiansen adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.