

**Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oregon Historical Society- Portland
Tuesday, November 12, 2013**

Committee Participants:

Eliza Canty-Jones
Marty Klug
Clark Niewendorp

Dick Matthews
Charlotte Lehan
David Porter

George Forbes
Wayne Sharp

Absent:

Robert Keeler

Richard Engeman

Stan McDonald

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

1) Call to order/Introductions

Eliza called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

2) Approval of the August 13, 2013 Minutes

David moved to accept the minutes. George seconded the motion. The minutes passed with no dissenting votes.

3) Marker Projects

- a. **Joel Perkins Park:** The committee reviewed the first draft text for the Joel Perkins Park marker, submitted by Bob Keeler. The committee discussed the text regarding Perkin's death. Since he was murdered it would be easy for the marker to go off on a tangent into the drama of that story. The main themes of the marker are Perkin's business enterprises and the beginnings of the town of Lafayette. Eliza asked the committee to send in any suggestions on wording, particularly around his marriage and death. Edits should be emailed to Annie at OTE by Friday, November 22, 2013.
- b. **View-Master:** The committee reviewed the first draft text for the View-Master marker submitted by David Porter. The committee approved of the general direction of the marker. David will do some research into some statistics about the toy, such as number of units produced, number of languages produced in, number of countries distributed in, how long it was manufactured in Oregon, etc. Eliza volunteered to help David on the next round of text.
- c. **Pinot Noir:** The committee reviewed a list of key points submitted by Dyson DeMara, the sponsor of the Pinot Noir marker. The committee identified the following key points to be the most important:
 - i. Richard Sommer was the first to come from UC Davis with the idea of planting Pinot Noir in the state of Oregon. The prevailing wisdom of the time held that the coast in California was the only place to make fine wines in the US.
 - ii. Sommer co-founded the Oregon Winegrowers Association
 - iii. The first planting of Pinot Noir was at HillCrest Vineyard in 1961.

Eliza will continue to do some research to find some statistics about how the wine industry has impacted Oregon, to create a context of why this was an important event for the state. The Oregon Wine Board and the library at Linfield College will continue to be involved in the development of this marker to insure accuracy of information.

4) Marker Projects Update

- a. **Jedediah Smith:** The Jedediah Smith marker text and design are complete and is in the manufacturing process. Sea Reach is timing the completion of the structure for a spring installation in 2014. Annie will contact committee members in January for a site visit to confirm the placement of the marker.
- b. **Meacham:** The committee reviewed the current text on the Meacham marker. The consensus was to change the wording and re-route the fourth board on the current marker to clarify the text. Eliza will do some research regarding the statement “..Meacham was capitol of the United States when President Warren G. Harding stopped for a day...” She will try to figure out if this was a something that Harding said at the event, or if it was just a figure of speech used in the Oregonian newspaper coverage of the proceedings.

5) Council Report:

Charlotte reported that the Travel Information Council is working on strategic planning. She said the council recognizes the good work that the Historical Marker and Heritage Tree Committees perform.

Charlotte also serves on the board for the Willamette Falls Heritage Area, which is currently seeking National Heritage Area recognition. The committee expressed interest in partnering with future interpretive opportunities. There are three double-sided historical markers located at scenic overlooks at Willamette Falls. The committee would be interested in discussing additional interpretation, or upgrading the existing markers at those sites. Annie will email the six marker texts to Charlotte.

6) Committee Member Reports/New Business

- a. **Volunteer Report:** Wayne reported that the volunteers are working on the Indian Trails marker. They will be coordinating with the OTE sign crew to re-install the sign soon. One of the Salem town volunteers, Jim Childers, recently went on a roadtrip in Eastern Oregon and stopped by six of our markers along the way. He took pictures and made notes on the condition of the markers. Wayne and Jim will organize a maintenance trip to the same area next summer to make the repairs Jim identified.

The Pendleton marker is in terrible shape and will probably need to be rebuilt. Annie said the committee will need to discuss what they would like to do with that marker: restore, replace with a new marker, or remove it from the program.

- b. **New Business:** No new business

7) 2013 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the second month of the quarter, unless otherwise specified.

February 11, 2014 – OTE Office, Salem

May 13, 2014 – Leach Gardens, Portland

August 12, 2014 – Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

November 11, 2014- Oregon Historical Society

Adjournment

Eliza called for the meeting to adjourn at 11:02 am.