

**Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Leach Botanical Garden, Portland
Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

Committee Participants:

Eliza Canty-Jones
Robert Keeler
Dick Mathews

Marty Klug
Clark Niewendorp
David Porter

George Forbes
Charlotte Lehan

Absent:

Jack Carroll

Guests:

Roger Brandt

Chris Bell

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

1) Call to order/Introductions

Eliza called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Participants made self-introductions.

2) Approval of the May 13, 2014 Minutes

Bob moved to accept the May 13, 2014 meeting minutes with some minor corrections. George seconded the motion. The minutes passed with no dissenting votes.

3) Committee Elections

Eliza informed the committee of the following nominations:

Chair- George Forbes

Vice-chair- Charlotte Lehan

Eliza asked if there were any other nomination for the officer positions. Hearing none, Dick made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. George seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Marty Klug's position as ODOT representative has expired. Eliza asked Marty if he was interested in renewing his term for another three years. Marty accepted. Bob moved to accept the renewal of Marty's term. George seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Annie informed the committee that Stan McDonald has officially resigned as a voting member of the committee. His current work commitments have made it hard for him to attend meetings. However, he is interested in staying involved as an ex-officio member. There are two open seats on the committee. Chris Bell expressed interest in joining and will be encouraged to fill out a committee application form.

Dick Matthews suggested contacting Gwenn Carr to see if she would be interested in serving on the committee. Annie will follow up with both Chris and Gwenn before the next meeting.

4) New Application

a. Thomas Jefferson Howell:

Roger Brandt submitted the Thomas Jefferson Howell Historical Marker pre-application to the committee. Roger said that he will begin raising funds for the project once it is approved.

He said the marker location is on the TJ Howell Botanical Drive where visitors can view Brewer's spruce, which was the last documented tree species discovered in the US and possibly North America. Roger said this is a statewide story, since TJ Howell contributed widely to botany across the state. Howell was self taught and even typeset his own books. Eliza said the site and subject makes a lot of sense, but she asked for clarification regarding the content of the other interpretive panels in the area. Roger said they talk mostly about the botany of the area, but only briefly mention TJ Howell. Eliza cautioned the committee to be careful and not to negate the millennia of knowledge amassed by the native tribes in the area, who already knew about the plants in the area. She said the sign should focus on the fact that he was the first to extensively document the native plant species.

Clark also warned the committee to be careful about any language on the sign that may fuel either side in current mining debates in the area. Clark said both pro-mining and environmentalist advocates are ramping up political arguments. He does not want to see the committee embroiled in controversy. The committee agreed that the proposed content of the sign does not seem to be inflammatory or potentially contentious, since it will focus on the person, rather than commenting on mining or the state of the environment. Clark will keep an eye on the text as it is developed to help flag any potential problems.

George made a motion to approve the pre-application for the TJ Howell Historical Marker project. Dick seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Clark and David will be the text sub-committee for this marker.

b. Apollo Moon Tree/ Stuart Roosa

Roger Brandt presented the Moon Tree/ Stuart Roosa Historical Marker pre-application to the committee. He explained the connections of Stuart Roosa to the Smokejumper Base in Cave Junction. Roger said Roosa was inspired by his work in Oregon forests, which is why he chose to take Oregon tree seeds in his personal kit to the moon on Apollo 14. Roger explained that the original Moon Tree at the base died, and a new one was planted from a cutting of the Moon Tree in Roseburg.

Eliza said she would like to see clear documentation of the evidence linking this tree to the original tree in Roseburg, as well as documentation about the garden club's involvement.

Charlotte said this topic seems to wander and briefly touches on several stories. What is the main story (Moon Tree, Stuart Roosa's history or Smokejumper history?) She said it seems disjointed. Eliza suggested that Roger go back and collect the text from the interpretation currently on display. She said that Charlotte, Roger and herself will hold a conference call to determine a suggested direction for the marker.

The topic was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

5) Marker Projects

- a. View-Master:** The committee members reviewed the current draft of the View Master marker. David reported he is expecting a letter from Fischer-Price acknowledging their consent to use the View Master name in the marker. He will forward it to Annie as soon as he receives a copy. Eliza asked the committee to take a close look and send any changes to Annie by mid-September. The marker will be installed in May, with a dedication event scheduled for May 18, 2015.

6) Marker Projects Update

- a. Meacham:** Annie reported the Meacham marker is complete and will be installed tomorrow, August 13, 2014.

- b. **Joel Perkins Park:** Bob reported that the marker design has been approved and the marker is in production. A dedication date will be set for September.
- c. **Pinot Noir:** Eliza reported that the Pinot Noir marker is complete and is in production. A dedication has been set for September 16th at HillCrest Vineyard.

7) Council Report:

Charlotte reported the Council will have a retreat in October. The Heritage Tree Program dedicated the Aurora Colony Black Walnut in June; it was a well received and successful event.

8) Committee Member Reports/New Business

- a. **Volunteer Report:** Annie reported for Jack Carroll. She said four of the volunteers will be taking a maintenance fieldtrip next week for four days. They will be visiting 10 markers along 1-84. They also recently completed restoration of a rotted header board on the Oregon City Historical Marker.

9) New Business

- a. Annie handed out copies of the OTE heritage program brochure. She asked all committee members to look through it and send in any corrections or suggested edits to her via email. She will need the edits by October 1st. The next edition of the brochure will be printed in March 2015.

10) 2014- 2015 Meeting Schedule

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

November 4, 2014- Oregon Historical Society

(Please note, this meeting will be held a week early, due to the Veteran's Day holiday)

February 10, 2015 – OTE office, Salem

May 18, 2014 – Oregon Caves National Monument

(Please note, this meeting is on a Monday to coordinate with the ViewMaster dedication)

Adjournment

Eliza called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:50 am.