**Oregon Historical Marker Committee  
Meeting Minutes**Oregon Historical Society

1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205

**Tuesday, February 09, 2016**

**Committee Participants:**

George Forbes  
Marty Klug

Charlotte Lehan, Chair

Richard Engeman

Robert Keeler

Chris Bell Lina Ma, Vice-Chair David Porter

**Absent:**

Eliza Canty-Jones

**Staff Participants:**

Annie von Domitz Nancy DeSouza Jessica Carbone

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1. **Call to Order/ Introductions**

Lehan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. **Approval of the August 21, 2015 Minutes**

Porter moved to accept the November 5, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, Keeler seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

1. **Public Comment**

The Committee addressed concerns brought forth in an email by Roger Brandt. He wanted the Committee to find ways to better engage communities that have fewer economic resources. The markers could be used to promote self-esteem and economic development in such communities. Another comment Brandt brought to the Committee was to think about how to better communicate through our nomination process. Von Domitz said the committee’s work on the new nomination form will help improve communication considerably. Lehan communicated to Brandt that the Committee would also discuss how important the markers’ proximity to people or “foot traffic” is to a nomination. The Committee came to the conclusion that there is a difference between rural and remote. Remote being that it may put the visitor at risk getting there, it doesn’t have access to regular maintenance and it has a greater threat of vandalism. An example of remote location would be a forestry road through a wilderness area.

1. **New Applications**
2. The 555th Battalion

This nomination deals with an important topic that should be shared. It has great support from a variety of groups. Porter made a motion to approve the development of a 555th Battalion Oregon Historical Marker and fold the Melvin Brown marker into that project. Bell seconded the motion. Keeler made the recommendation that the combined story (555th and Melvin Brown) and the good location would be better served with a larger format marker. Von Domitz clarified that if Brandt does not want to go forward with the larger marker the committee is OK with going forward with a smaller marker. The motion was unanimously approved. The 555th Battalion sub-committee includes Keeler and Ma. TIC council member Ed Washington was suggested as another possible subcommittee member, since Washington expressed interest in the project.

1. Melvin Brown

The Committee discussed the application, but found that the individual nomination did not meet marker program criteria. The committee did feel that it was an interesting and important story that should be included in the 555th Battalion marker.

1. Indian Marathon

When looking over the nomination packet, Engeman did not see a connection to any local Oregon tribes. He feels that this story may be part of a larger Southern Oregon story of the “Redwood Highway” campaign, a larger highway/tourism project that connected Grants Pass to San Francisco. Bell mentioned a green neon sign next to Caveman Bridge that was part of the same project which ODOT is currently discussing renovating. He also found the story interesting as a part of the history of a growing mega-marathon running culture in Southern Oregon. If further inquiries were to be made, Keeler said the first step would be to reach out to the local Indian tribes to find out any information they might have recorded about the event. The Zuni tribe mentioned in the application, although very private, could also be contacted with specific questions about their involvement in the event. Keeler made a motion to suggest to Brandt that this story could be folded into the larger story of the Redwood Highway and the beginnings of the automobile culture in Southwest Oregon. If he would like to resubmit something along those lines, he would need to contact local Indian tribes and the Zuni people to be sure that that aspect of the story is clear and accurate. The proposal as it stands does not meet the program criteria. Bell seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

1. **The Dallas to Canyon City Wagon Road Marker**

The sign has a crack in the panel and is completely unreadable due to water damage. Engeman volunteered to review the text. The estimated repair costs of $1,300 would come out the maintenance budget.

1. **Old Business**
2. New Application Form

Bell recommended inserting a check box list into the application of what criteria requirements the nominated marker meets.

1. Previous Interpretive Plans

Von Domitz presented all requested materials about previous interpretive and strategic planning efforts that had been done for possible content. She inquired if the Committee felt if these topics were valid or would a new search for topics need to be done. She congratulated the Committee on the work done since the list was compiled. Lehan felt that an important event that should be added on the list is the Columbus Day Storm of 1962. It had such great statewide impact. DeSouza recommended putting the marker in the Capitol Mall. Willamette or Western University where also recommended. Lehan and Porter committed to continuing research on this topic for a Committee initiated marker.

Porter requested more time for the committee members to review the topics. He still sees valid topics listed. Markers dealing with the topic of grazing rights are a very current issue to investigate further. The Great Tsunami panel text came up for review. That panel is to be discussed at another meeting. Von Domitz asked the Committee to keep Brandt’s request to keep underserved communities in mind when going over potential topics. The Interpretive Plan discussion will be added to next meeting agenda.

1. Forbes informed the Committee that he has a call into Court Carrier to help with the Cannon Beach project. TIC council member Ryan Snyder may be a possible contact as well.
2. **Council Meeting**

Lehan informed the Committee that the annual Heritage Tree Dedication will be April 8, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Canby at the Philander Oak. She also informed the Travel Information Council about the work being done by von Domitz and the Heritage Tree Committee on the Grove of the States for its 50 year anniversary in 2017. She said the site may be a considered for a possible Historical Marker about a larger story including the Grove, Highway Beautification Act and Sam Baldock. The D River kiosk was torn down and the Council is now looking at all of OTE’s kiosks and making them more self-sufficient. Lehan would like at least one panel in each kiosk dedicated to historic assets in the area.

DeSouza updated the Committee on conversations with ODOT that have led to an agreement and draft rules on rest area sponsorships. There is also a lot of focus on a future transportation package and how to build a stable funding network for the long term.

1. **Committee Member Reports/ New Business**
2. Volunteer Report

Von Domitz reported for Carroll that there have not been any renovations for winter, but the plan for this coming year is to head to the Burns/Vale area.

1. No New Business was reported.
2. **2016 Meeting Schedule**

May 10 - OTE Offices in Salem, Or.

August 9 - possible location Cannon Beach

November 8 -possible location The Dalles

1. **Adjourn**