

**Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Oregon Travel Experience

1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97302

(Draft to be approved at Nov. 4, 2016 committee meeting)

Tuesday, August 10, 2016

Committee Participants:

Robert Keeler	Richard Engeman	Jack Carroll, Volunteer
Marty Klug	Eliza Canty-Jones	
Chris Bell	David Porter	

Absent:

George Forbes	Charlotte Lehan, Chair	Lina Ma, Vice-Chair
David Porter		

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Maddie MacGregor	Jessica Carbone
Nancy DeSouza		

1) Call to Order/ Introductions

Canty-Jones called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Quorum was not met at this time.

Bell joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

2) Volunteer Report

Carroll expressed his appreciation for staff's work on coordinating the volunteers' recent work trip. He then gave a brief introduction of the other volunteers on the team and a recap of the recent trip to repair markers in eastern Oregon. They visited signs near Burns, Buchanan, Vale and Adrian. The Bannock War marker outside of Riley will need to be brought in for repair due to truck damage. Bolder placement was recommended to keep trucks from hitting that marker. The American Indian Seasonal Round marker at the Narrows has dry rot in the rear leg and five bullet holes in the plastic. The Eldorado Ditch marker at Unity is in poor condition. No major work could be done without further damage. It will need to be replaced in a couple of years. Carroll said overall it was an extremely productive trip. DeSouza expressed the appreciation of the Council for all the work done by the volunteers. Carroll expressed the desire of the volunteers to have signs to work on in their shop during the winter.

Carroll left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

MacGregor joined the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

3) Committee Term Elections

a. Officers

The committee discussed nominating Lina Ma to serve another year as Vice-Chair and Bob Keeler as Chair.

b. Committee Member Terms:

Charlotte Lehan, Robert Keeler and David Porter were all nominated for renewed three-year terms. Kelly Cannon-Miller's interest form was nominated as new member to the committee representing Central/Eastern Oregon serving a three-year term.

The committee tabled the election of committee members and officers due to a lack of quorum.

4) Current Projects:

1) The 555th Battalion

Keeler presented a rough first draft of marker text for review. He feels the biggest challenge is being able to address all the key aspects of the story in 250 words. Some of the main text may be able to be pulled out and used as captions for photos. The proper spelling for the battalion nickname is Nickles not nickels. Bob feels more information about how this history fits into the context of civil rights should be included. Six months before Truman ended a segregated military the Triple Nickles were assigned to the 82nd airborne as the third battalion, which up to that point was an all white unit. The 555th Battalion was one of the first black units inserted into completely white units. The importance of this battalion being led by African American officers was also highlighted.

The Triple Nickles text is currently 452 and the Malvin Brown segment is 340 words with a max of 250 words with a small amount of text available in captions. Keeler recommends a sister marker at the air field in Pendleton, OR as an ideal, logical location. He asked the committee to take the draft home and email him any revisions. Von Domitz mentioned Gwen Carr would like to help with revisions as well. Keeler welcomed the idea, but felt waiting to include outside interested parties until the second draft would be better. There was some discussion that there might be a better location for the main marker, but it was decided to keep the marker located at the Smokejumper museum.

Von Domitz shared, at Ed Washington's request, that the Vanport marker has brought more exposure to the history of the City of Vanport than ever before. The success of the Vanport marker was suggested as a great piece for the next edition of Deep Roots.

Marty Klug arrived at 10:30 a.m. With Klug's arrival a Quorum was reached.

New Business:

5) Grove of the States Interpretation

Von Domitz gave an informative background of the Grove and its current condition and how its needs are being addressed. She made a request for a few committee members to help with interpretation of informational signs. The signs would cover the original planting and the restoration. Major topics would include its ties to HYW Restoration Act, community garden clubs and Oregon highway history. It was suggested that given marker criteria that needs to be met, the HYW Restoration Act may be a topic that could be made into a historical marker. Canty-Jones

suggested that there may be an additional charge to the committee to act as an advisory group to OTE to make sure history is accurately interpreted in the rest areas that may not exactly fall within the guidelines of the committee. Canty-Jones asked if there were any funds available to hire an independent researcher. Oregon Historical Society could possibly help looking for grants for larger projects like the Oregon Trail kiosks.

The discussion then turned to interpretations found in the Oregon Trail kiosks. Keeler asked if the signs were in good condition. Von Domitz said the current signs were in newer condition, the original signs were painted on, but due to vandalism they were replaced with fiberglass embedded panels. Engeman reported the signs were sun worn. It is a large project, with lots of text and specially drawn illustrations.

Von Domitz moved the conversation back to the Grove discussion. She and Bell will work on some guidelines for the potential highway/ Sam Baldock marker.

6) Bristow Monument Relocation Request

Von Domitz presented a request from Oregon State Parks to move the Bristow Monument Marker from its current location in a road side pull off to Bristow State Park. State Parks would move both the fireplace monument and the marker to the park and then gradually add more interpretation. We would give up the right to oversee the interpretation and would have no responsibility to maintain. Keeler moved to approve this request as articulated by Lisa Routhier. Engeman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7) Oregon Trail Kiosks

Von Domitz presented the current information available on the Oregon Trail Kiosks. Gwenn Baldwin, Chair of the OTIC, as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla reservation, have expressed concern about their content and the need to be updated. This is complicated, multi-layer project that will include the review and possible revision of approximately 50 interpretive panels, the engagement of diverse stakeholder groups, and the identification of funding sources. Keeler asked if any of the original art work was available. Von Domitz replied that Sea Reach may have copies and there may possibly be copies in OTE storage. Canty- Jones sees this as a great opportunity and would like to explore OHS partnering on this project. Keller informed the committee that 2018 will be the 175 anniversary of the Oregon Trail and it may be a great way to initiate the project. DeSouza asked how many of these kiosks existed outside of the rest areas. Von Domitz replied quite a few. The group that built them disbanded and the ownership of the kiosk went to the owner of the land they sit on. Some of the kiosks located outside of rest areas are not in good repair. Next steps to be taken are to create a stake holder list and open discussions with OHS. Von Domitz will reach out to Sea Reach to see if they are in possession of copies of the original panels. MacGregor suggested also looking for potential sponsors since they can now be acknowledged. Keeler asked if there was any way to tell how many visitors visit the kiosks. Von Domitz responded that there are counters for visitors to the rest area, but no way to know how many people actually visit the kiosks, especially those not in rest areas.

8) Indian Marathon

Bell met with Tara, the U of O PHD candidate who has written a thesis on this subject. He has also communicated with the City of Grants Pass to make sure there is funding for the sign, before work on the sign starts in depth. He believes the city truly wants it and even thought it may not be the actually finish line as previously thought, they would like the sign kept downtown. Von Domitz recommends if the marker is going to be in the downtown area that a pedestal marker may be best. For structural reasons, nothing can be put on the back of a marker leaving a large black blank space. The pedestal markers are also less expensive. Bell reported he learned through conversations and research that the race is a source of pride for the tribes that participated. Canty-Jones requested a copy of Tara's thesis. With the interest in the marathon story and then Redwood Highway, a two sign approach may appeal to sponsors.

9) Approval of 05/10/16 Minutes:

Keeler purposed amending "Beuna Vista" to "Buena Vista" on page 2. Bell purposed amending "Salem Town" to "Salemtowne" on page 3. Bell moved to approve the minutes with amendments. Keeler seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

10) Committee Elections

Canty-Jones called again for a motion to approve the nominations for committee members, since the meeting now had a quorum.

a. 3-Year Committee Term Renewal:

Engeman moved to approve the renewal of membership of Robert Keeler, David Porter and Charlotte Lehan for a three-year term and to approve Kelly Cannon-Miller as a new member to the Historical Marker Committee for a three-year term. Bell seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Officer Elections:

The officer elections have been moved to the November meeting pending further discussion.

11) Priority Replacement Projects:

Von Domitz, asked the committee to reevaluate the marker replacement priority list created in 2011. She will use the feedback from the committee during the biennium budget process. She suggested dividing up the markers into sections and coming back to the committee with suggestions for markers currently on the list and if other markers should be raised in priority. After some discussion it was decided that the documents would be posted to a one drive that everyone could access.

12) Council Report:

DeSouza gave a Council update to the committee. Council has been working on a number of projects, but the biggest is securing sustainable and sufficient funding to operate the rest areas. To achieve this, the Council is working with partners to include stable rest area funding as part of a successful transportation package.

13) 2016 Meeting Schedule

November- Cannon Beach date TBD

February 14 – TBA

May 9 – TBA

14) Adjourn at 11:48 am.