

**Oregon Historical Marker Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Oregon Travel Experience  
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97302

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

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**Committee Participants:**

Robert Keeler	Charlotte Lehan, Chair
Marty Klug	Eliza Canty-Jones
Chris Bell	David Porter

**Absent:**

George Forbes	Richard Engeman	Lina Ma, Vice-Chair
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**Staff Participants:**

Annie von Domitz	Maddie MacGregor	Jessica Carbone
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**1) Call to Order/ Introductions**

Lehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2) Approval of the February 09, 2016 Minutes**

Porter moved to accept the February 09, 2016 meeting minutes as presented, Bell seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3) Current Projects:**

A) The 555<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Keeler reported Roger Brandt is working on collecting funding. Brandt is open to the committee's suggestion of combining the Marvin Brown story and the 555<sup>th</sup> Battalion into one large marker. Keeler is currently working on taking the larger story and making an outline of the major themes to be displayed on the marker. The major theme of the 555<sup>th</sup> WWII segregated elite Army Unit was broken down into 5 major topics. 1) Post War Civil rights 2) Racial discrimination 3) USFS Smokejumpers 4) Death of Melvin Brown 5) Operation Firefly. He feels it is important to include the post war store of the 555<sup>th</sup> and how the soldiers were intergraded into different battalions after the group was disbanded. There was discussion of the possibility of this story having a small "sister" marker at the airfield in Pendleton, OR.

Keeler and Ma will be taking the information and begin shaping text for the marker. They will be working with Brandt to fill in some of the unanswered questions. Lehan asked when the graphic team would be needed. Keeler replied after they have draft text. Keeler has requested Brandt to find local photos. Von Domitz requested that the text be finalized by

the August meeting, with good photographs, to be able to have the marker installed by early June 2017.

**B) Indian Marathon**

Bell reported he is in the process of gathering more information on three major subjects encompassed in this marker. 1) The marathon itself. 2) The opening of the Redwood Highway 3) If this event creates a feeling of pride for Native Americans. Brandt was his source of information, but was then connected to a Graduate Student at U of O, Tara Keegan, who is writing a thesis on this topic. After she is done with school this spring, should be a wealth of information. The Grants Pass chamber was very open to having a marker placed there. He talked to the National Park Service at the Hubble trading post. Hubble sponsored/promoted these runs and the Zuni. The National Park Service offered the information they have and to talk about the marker in their own information. The committee decided to pursue this marker further. Keeler suggested the Redwood Highway as the focus and the Marathon being a sub-bubble. The finish line location/visitors center was suggested as the location of the marker as well as the Conde McCullough designed bridge. Bell is going to meet with Keegan to find out more information. This topic will be continued at the next meeting.

**4) Interpretive Plan**

The committee took a look at the both of the past Interpretive Plans. Lehan reported that she had mentioned the Columbus Day storm to a couple different groups at the Heritage Conference. She inquired into the possible marker for Grove of the States. Von Domitz informed the council of the project and its historical significance. There was discussion of difference topics for a marker in the location; celebration of the Highway Beautification Act, Sam Baldock, and Forrest Cooper, the father of Rest Areas. Even if the site does not include an official Oregon Historical Marker, Von Domitz asked the committee for help interpreting information for the Grove.

Canty-Jones recommended the O&C lands marker topic as something useful and significant. It may be tough to consolidate the topic in 250 words, but it could prove to be a great service. Bell suggested a location next to a recreational area near Klamath Falls as possible location.

Porter recommended River Ferry's/boats and their importance to the development of early Oregon. Bell recommended a site next to a landing from 1847 located near the Buena Vista. Canty-Jones asked the committee what the purpose of the committee driving forward our own markers. Von Domitz replied that the original purpose was to make sure the complete story of Oregon's history was being told. The committee was receiving of a lot of the same types of markers submitted (Oregon Trail, explorers, etc.). The list was a way for committee members to make sure all the stories were being told and to reach out to groups to encourage them to tell their stories.

Porter suggested finding a philanthropic entity to support a seed fund, for example, Oregon Community Fund. They have donor advised funds that may be appropriate. Porter offered to help. Keeler recommended the Meyer Trust.

Lehan suggested the goal of no more than one a year committee lead marker a year.

Von Domitz suggested that the main focus may need to be making sure the signs that need to be updated or replaced should be completed before we focus on new markers. Keeler noted the size of the list is formidable and should be our main priority for committee funds. Lehan agreed.

**5) Performance Measure**

Von Domitz has developed two main points for measurement. 1) Partner satisfaction; how partners felt working with us and if there are satisfied with the time and money investment 2) How many of our markers meet our maintenance standards based on a 5 year inspection. Porter recommends a marker content measure. Although how that could be measure is still in discussion. Canty- Jones recommended measuring how much volunteer time and private dollars the program utilizes. Keeler suggested recommending letting our local sponsors know to tract their time.

**6) Council Meeting**

Lehan informed the committee that the last Council meeting dealt mainly with the Executive Director Performance review, rest area performance measures and talking about how funding could be affected with a potential transportation package.

**7) Committee Member Reports/ New Business**

A. Volunteer Report

Von Domitz reported the Salemtowne volunteers will be heading to the Burns/Vale area the end of July.

B. New Business

Committee elections will be next meeting. Officer terms are a single year; von Domitz asked if this was something that the committee wanted continue or extend the terms two years.

C. The Salemtowne 50th Anniversary is in August 2017. This could be a possible time to celebrate our volunteers. Von Domitz will send out some possible suggestions to the committee.

**8) 2016 Meeting Schedule**

August 9 - possible location Portland

November 8 -possible location Cannon Beach

February 14 – TBA

May 9 – TBA

**9) Adjourn at 11:25 am.**