

Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Portland Spirit Office
110 SE Caruthers, Portland, OR

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Committee Participants:

George Forbes	Charlotte Lehan	Richard Engeman
Marty Klug	Clark Niewendorp	Robert Keeler
Eliza Canty-Jones	Lina Ma	David Porter

Absent:

Jack Carroll	Chris Bell
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Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

1) Call to Order/ Introductions

Lehan called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

2) Approval of the August 21, 2015 Minutes

Keeler moved to accept the August 21, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, with minor corrections. Forbes seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3) Strategic Direction

A. **OAR Revisions:** Lehan said the sub-committee tried to make the OARs simple with less detail. The suggested revisions refer to the program criteria and by-laws for details such as committee membership and marker design. The program criteria and by-laws are easier to amend, for example, when new building materials are developed to improve historical marker design. The committee went through the suggested revisions and made additional suggestions for edits.

Forbes moved that the committee approve the changes to the OAR document and forward them on to the Oregon Travel Information Council for consideration. Porter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Nomination Criteria:** Lehan reported the sub-committee looked at program criteria, nomination processes, and content development processes from several different states. She said Oregon's process is tightly controlled compared to most of those other states. The sub-committee made significant changes to the nomination form, especially in the instructions and guideline sections. The intention was to clarify the type of information and

topics the committee is looking for in a nomination. This will help improve the quality of the nominations we receive. The committee went through the new draft of the application form and made suggested edits. The committee members were most concerned about making sure the applicants know the committee has the right to terminate the process at any point and the committee may table an application for a future meeting to obtain more information.

Porter asked about the expected lifespan of the existing markers. Von Domitz said Sea Reach give their markers a life expectancy of 10 years. With volunteer maintenance OTE expects markers to last 20 years or more.

The committee discussed the need to review the current marker inventory to determine if there are stories the committee should be pro-active in pursuing. Charlotte cited the Columbus Day Storm as an example of a story the committee could try to develop in honor of the 50th anniversary of the event. Von Domitz will send the committee members a copy of the 2004 Interpretive Plan, which listed priority topics the program should include. The list was compiled during a strategic planning effort by the committee and included input from experts and heritage organizations from around the state.

The committee members asked for a continuation of this topic to be added to the February 2016 meeting agenda under strategic planning.

4) Marker Projects (Work Session)

- A. **TJ Howell:** Porter said he thinks TJ Howell is a significant person and deserves a historical marker. However, he strongly believes that the nominated location is not a good fit. It is too remote and is not where Howell did significant work. Porter moved to reject the application of the TJ Howell marker in Cave Junction. Keeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Canty-Jones suggested contacting Metro to suggest a TJ Howell marker to be placed at the Bybee Howell House. Porter volunteered to contact Metro about a partnership on this project. Engeman volunteered to work with Porter on a strategy to move the project forward.

- B. **Cannon Beach:** Forbes said he had not found a sponsor yet, but would reach out to another contact he has in the lodging industry in Cannon Beach. Canty-Jones reported she will wait to begin developing text for the marker until funding is secured.

5) Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

6) Council Report

Lehan reported the Council is moving forward with strategic planning for the agency, but there is nothing new to report at this time.

7) Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Abigail Scott Duniway:** von Domitz reported the City of Lafayette has requested permission to move the Abigail Scott Duniway historical marker from its current location in Joel Perkins Park to a new Abigail Scott Duniway Park along Hwy 99. Canty-Jones moved to grant permission to the City of Lafayette to move the marker to the new park. Forbes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. **Volunteer Report:** von Domitz reported for Jack Carroll. The Salemtowne Volunteers completed a four day marker maintenance trip in August. They worked on eight markers in and around Klamath Falls, Bly, Lakeview and Summer Lake. Next summer the volunteers are planning to travel to the Burns and Vale areas for marker maintenance.

- C. **New Business:** Von Domitz reported the costs for developing and building an Oregon Historical Marker have increased this year, under our contract with Sea Reach. Keeler moved to increase the cost of sponsoring an Oregon Historical Marker \$300 to cover the increase in production costs. Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The new cost for a large historical marker is \$7500.00; the cost for a pedestal marker is now \$3500.00

The committee requested adding a discussion about future funding and sustainable growth on the February 2016 committee agenda.

8) Meeting Schedule

February 9, 2016- Oregon Historical Society, Portland
May 4, 5, or 6 (TBD), 2016 – Salem, in conjunction with the Heritage Conference
August 9, 2016 – TBD
November 8, 2016- TBD

9) Adjournment

Lehan adjourned the meeting at 11:15am