

Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Museum of the Oregon Territory
211 Tumwater Dr., Oregon City, OR 97045
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Committee Participants:

Robert Keeler, Chair	Lina Ma
Ed Washington	Gwenn Baldwin
Eliza Canty-Jones	Charlotte Lehan
Chris Bell	David Porter

Absent:

George Forbes	Kelly Cannon-Miller
Bob Garcia	Marty Klug

Guests:

Siobhan Taylor

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

1) Call to Order/ Introductions

Keeler called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Self-introductions were made. Gwenn Baldwin introduced herself as a new member and representative of the Travel Information Council.

2) Approval of the Minutes

The August 8, 2017 meeting minutes were presented for approval. Lehan noted that the minutes misspelled "Mayer-Reed." *Porter moved to approve the minutes with the spelling correction, Bell seconded. Baldwin and Washington abstained. The minutes were approved with no dissenting votes.*

3) Current Marker Projects

A. Cannon Beach Marker

The committee discussed the most recent draft of the Cannon Beach marker. Canty-Jones will make final suggested edits to the caption under the ship illustration and get those back to von Domitz. Committee members were asked to send in any final edits to the text within a week. Von Domitz will send the updated draft to the sponsors in Arch Cape.

B. The Dalles to Canyon City Wagon Road

Von Domitz reported she had the opportunity to attend the Tribal-State Government to Government Summit this month and met Valerie Switzle of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The committee had contacted her for comments regarding the revised text for this

marker. Switzler expressed interest in reviewing the text and asked von Domitz to re-send the information to her.

The committee discussed planning fieldtrips to meet with each of the nine federally recognized tribes in the state. Von Domitz will work on getting at least one meeting per year organized.

C. Triple Nickles in Pendleton

Von Domitz reported that she has run into some issues coordinating a meeting with interested parties in Pendleton this fall, but is trying to set up something for the spring. She has also made some contacts with the Oregon Military Department. The Pendleton Air Base has a classroom full of displays about the Triple Nickles. Von Domitz is currently working to set up a meeting to view the room and scout for potential marker locations in the area. She will keep the committee informed as more information is available.

4) Marker Replacements/ Priority Replacement List

Von Domitz reminded the committee that in 2011 the committee at that time conducted a text review of the entire marker program. Several of the markers on the original list have already been replaced or removed since 2011. She suggested the committee conduct a new review to update the priority list of markers that need to be reworded and replaced. The Travel Information Council recently increased the funding for the historical marker and heritage tree programs. An updated priority list is important for developing a new budget for the programs. The committee discussed how to rank markers based on content, location and condition. The committee decided to focus on the remaining markers on the 2011 priority list first, before reviewing the entire marker inventory. Von Domitz will send the priority list texts to the committee in a Google Doc. The committee members will review and comment on that document. They will use those comments to create a new priority list at the February 2018 committee meeting. The committee estimated they could re-write and replace two to four markers per year.

5) Regional Commemorative Markers

Keeler reported that in 2008, the committee developed a new marker type to commemorate the state's sesquicentennial celebration. They were designed to be regional "gateway" markers and the goal was to have at least one in each tourism region. The committee was successful in placing three markers, one in Southern Oregon, and two on the Coast. Due mostly to the recession, the project lost momentum and no new regional markers have been pursued. Keeler asked if the committee was interested in trying to create markers for the remaining five tourism regions. The committee decided, that for now, their efforts would be best spent trying to complete the projects identified as priority replacements. However, if tourism organizations were interested in pursuing a regional marker, the committee would be open to working with them. Porter volunteered to help brainstorm how to let people in the regions know about this marker option.

6) Oregon Trail Interpretive Kiosks

Von Domitz reported the Oregon Heritage Commission accepted the proposal to hold a workshop about the Oregon Trail Interpretive Kiosks at the 2018 Heritage Conference. The conference will be held in Bend in April. Canty-Jones has volunteered to help organize the workshop. The goal of the workshop will be to gather feedback about content for the new interpretation and to build support for the project.

7) Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

8) Committee Member Report/New Business:

- A. Volunteer Report:** Von Domitz reported for Jack Carroll, who was not able to attend this morning. The Salem Towne Volunteers have the Ft. Clatsop and Ft. Stevens marker in their shop. The Ft. Stevens marker needs to be completely rebuilt. The staff at Ft. Stevens State Park said they want the marker back in the park. Canty-Jones volunteered to lead the text revision for Ft. Stevens.

Von Domitz said she will continue to reach out to the staff at Ft. Clatsop National Park to see if anyone feels strongly about the marker returning. The committee discussed whether it was useful, since the park has in depth information about the fort. Since the national park charges admission, the committee said the marker provides some history to people who can't or won't pay the admission price. The Ft. Clatsop discussion was tabled for a future discussion.

- B. Council Report:** Washington thanked the committee for their continued work, which he said is important to the Council and the state. Washington reported that he was elected to be chair of the Council and Bob Garcia has been elected Vice-Chair. Nancy DeSouza, the Executive Director, is retiring in February and the Council is currently in the process of finding her successor. The rest area program has expanded greatly and as a result, a new Rest Area Program Director has been hired. She will start in December. Washington again thanked the committee for their awareness and heightened approach to ethnic diversity of the marker topics. He said one of his greatest highlights was being involved in the "Triple Nickles" marker project.

9) Willamette Falls Heritage Area/ Legacy Project

Siobahn Taylor joined the meeting and gave the committee an overview of the work her organization has done in the redevelopment of the industrial areas surrounding the falls. She detailed the history of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition in trying to get official National Park Heritage Area designation. The coalition has worked for many years to get the area federally recognized, and are still in the process. Taylor said they have decided to begin

acting as though they are already a heritage area. They recently purchased a historic building near the West Linn- Oregon City bridge. It will house the coalition staff, tourism organizations and serve as an incubator office space. Taylor said there are no plans currently that impact the three double-sided Oregon Historical Markers at the two Willamette Falls viewpoints.

10) 2017 Meeting Schedule

February 13 – OTE Office, Salem

May- TBD

July- TBD

11) Adjourn at 2:56 pm