

**Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oregon Travel Experience, Salem, OR
Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

Committee Participants:

George Forbes
Robert Keeler
Charlotte Lehan

Eliza Canty-Jones
Jack Childers
Clark Niewendorp

Richard Engeman
Marty Klug
Chris Bell

Absent:

Dick Mathews

David Porter

Guests:

Lina Ma

Wayne Sharp

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

Nancy DeSouza

Maddie MacGregor

1) Call to order/Introductions

George called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Participants made self-introductions. Clark announced that he was resigning from the committee due, but recommends the committee consider his colleague Lina Ma as a replacement for the DOGAMI position. The committee members expressed their appreciation for the work Clark has done on the committee over the many years he has served.

2) Approval of the November 4, 2014 Minutes

Bob moved to accept the November 4, 2014 meeting minutes. Richard seconded the motion. The minutes passed with no dissenting votes.

3) Public Comment

a. Jedediah Smith Marker:

Annie reported that the committee has received an email complaint regarding the Jedediah Smith marker that was installed in September in Reedsport. The committee reviewed the complaint, discussed their response and asked Annie to respond back on their behalf. The comment, from Mr. Brady Cooke, concerns the acts of violence that took place between Smith's party and the local Indian tribe on Bolan Island near present day Reedsport. The committee reiterated that the focus of the marker was to discuss the contributions Smith made to Oregon history and his impact on future explorations and settlement. With the limited space a the marker has, the committee felt that single act of violence, while a turning point in his path up the coast, was not the most important contribution Jedediah Smith made to Oregon history. The committee also commented that the accounts of the event are not complete and it is impossible to get a completely accurate and fair assessment about circumstances leading up to the clash.

4) Marker Projects

a. Thomas Jefferson Howell: Clark presented two versions of text for the TJ Howell maker. He said David wrote the first longer draft, at 288 words. Clark edited it down to an alternative draft of 149 words. This marker will be the smaller, pedestal style with a target word count of no more than 150 words. The committee members agreed to review both versions and send in their comments and edits to Annie within two weeks (February 24, 2015.)

b. Apollo Moon Tree/ Stuart Roosa

This nomination was tabled at the last meeting to give the project nominator, Roger Brandt, time to gather more information. Eliza reported that after reviewing the interpretation already in place, she is not convinced this story needs to be told again. The committee will use the opportunity to visit the proposed marker location during the fieldtrip to the View Master marker dedication in May. This application was tabled for the next meeting.

- c. **Umatilla and Pendleton:** Annie reported she didn't have any luck reaching anyone about this marker, but will work to reach out to the contact the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and the Umatilla County Historical Society. Eliza said contacted Bobby Conner at the Tamastlikt center. Bobby was interested in being involved in any text revisions. Annie will work with Eliza to continue to move the project forward. This topic will be included on the May agenda as a work session item.
- d. **Cannon Beach:** George said he contacted Tom Drumheller at Escape Lodging about sponsoring a new marker to replace existing routed marker. Tom requested traffic counts for the location. Marty said he would send the counts to Annie. Eliza said she did not get a chance to talk Greg Shine, a historian at Fort Vancouver, who did extensive research on the ship, *The Shark*. She will ask for his feedback on the current text as a starting point for further revision.
- e. **Pistol River:** Annie received some suggested edits from Mark Tveskov with Southern Oregon University to the existing text. The committee reviewed his suggestions. Bob said the Rogue River Wars were complicated and this marker needs to include maps. Eliza said this is an important and widely misunderstood story. Eliza will work with Mark to develop the text for the project. Annie will reach out to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The committee is interested in finding sponsors to replace the marker.

5) Council Report

Charlotte reported that the Council hired a new Executive Director, Nancy DeSouza. She asked Nancy to tell the committee about her background and past experience.

Charlotte said the Council has a focus on rest areas right now, but she has been reminding the Council about the need to promote the Heritage Programs through the rest areas. Charlotte also told the committee about the new electronic kiosk at the French Prairie Rest Area which will help direct visitors to nearby historical attractions.

Chris suggested OTE tell the story of the rest areas as a historic entity in and of themselves. He said Oregon was the first, or at least one of the first, states to have a complete system of rest areas.

6) Committee Member Reports/New Business

- a. **Volunteer Report:** Jack reported the Salemtowne Volunteers don't have any projects they are currently working on this winter. Annie and Jack will meet to see if there are any markers that need to be brought into their shop. There are several projects waiting for better weather that can be dealt with on-site.
- b. **"Captain" John West Marker:** Jim Alberg, the sponsor for the John West marker project, completed in 2008, contacted Annie to request the relocation of the marker. A new riverfront park is being constructed in Westport and Jim is interested in moving the marker into that new park. Bob and Annie will schedule a meeting with Jim to learn more about the project. The committee is reluctant to move the marker since its current location is ideal for the view and the number of visitors to the wayside. Annie will ask Sea Reach for two quotes: (1) to reprint the sign, to remove the site specific language so the existing frame can be moved into the new park, or (2) to create a duplicate panel and frame with minor text modifications so that the original marker can stay at Bradley Wayside State Park. Any decision to remove the sign from the current location will need to include input from Oregon State Parks.
- c. **Deep Roots:** Maddie asked the committee to submit stories or articles for the 2015 edition of the heritage program newsletter "Deep Roots." The newsletter is the main publication for the marker and

tree programs for the year and is used at all dedication and agency events. Content needs to be submitted to Maddie by March 2nd and should be 250- 500 words in length.

7) 2014- 2015 Meeting Schedule

May 16, 2015 – Oregon Caves National Monument

(Please note, this meeting has been moved to a Saturday to coordinate with the View Master marker dedication)

August 11, 2015 – Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Portland

November 10, 2015 – Oregon Historical Society, Portland

February, 9, 2016- OTE office, Salem

Adjournment

George called for the meeting to adjourn at 11:05 am.