

Oregon Historical Marker Committee

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Committee Participants: Bob Garcia, Chair; Gwenn Baldwin; Barbara Bonnem; Kelly Cannon-Miller; Eliza Canty-Jones; David Porter; Nancy DeSouza, Vice-Chair; Bob Keeler.

Excused: Chris Bell; Ed Washington

Staff Participants: Annie von Domitz; Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/ Introductions: Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of the Minutes: DeSouza suggested grammatical corrections to the minutes. *Porter made a motion to approve the August 3, 2021 minutes with the suggested corrections. Keeler seconded. The motion carried.*

Proposed Increase in Sponsorship Cost: Von Domitz proposed increasing the cost of sponsoring a large historical marker by \$200, bringing the new cost to \$7,500. Sea Reach has informed us that due to the increase in the cost of materials, they will be raising the cost of marker development by \$200. The last cost increase was \$300 in 2015. The cost of a smaller pedestal-style marker will remain the same for now at \$3,500.

Baldwin made a motion to approve the increase of the cost to sponsor a large historical marker to \$7,500. DeSouza seconded. The motion carried.

Current Marker Projects

- **Conflict at Pistol River Marker:** Von Domitz connected with Dani Padilla, Harris Beach State Park, and Pistol River Manager. Padilla is interested in partnering to develop new text for the site. There has been some communication with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, but von Domitz recommended crafting draft text with our partners and then asking Robert Kenta and his team with the Siletz to review that.
- **Willamette Post:** Keeler had nothing new to report. Von Domitz commented that there is large community support for the return of the marker and will reach out again to the Champoege State Park Manager.
- **Ruben Shipley:** DeSouza said the marker's sponsor was able to obtain a grant for \$3,900. The project has been featured twice in the local paper. A former Mayor of Philomath set up a GoFund Me that earned \$3,000. Together, there is enough money to continue the project. The project group is currently pulling together images for Sea Reach and hopefully, there will be a draft for the committee in a few weeks. The Newton Creek Park location for the marker has been approved by the city. There is a tentative plan for a dedication in September.
- **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter has been in communication with Padilla, who also oversees this park. Padilla suggested a couple of possible new topics. Porter will continue working with Padilla and begin researching a couple of possible topics to bring back to the committee.

- **Priority List for Text Review:** Von Domitz asked if there were committee members who would be willing to lead the text revisions on these projects. Park managers where both these signs are located are excited to be part of the process.
 - A. First Coastal Expeditions – Ona Beach: Canty-Jones volunteered to lead this project.
 - B. Yaquina Bay: Cannon-Miller volunteered to lead this project.

Salemtowne Maintenance Trip Report: Von Domitz shared the maintenance report collected by Salemtowne volunteers over their extensive trips this summer. There is a list of seven markers that have the most extensive damage and need to be replaced.

Empire City: The committee recommended removing the marker for safety reasons and see if there was another topic they would like to fundraise a replacement for. The city's use of the marker to post informational signage inspired a discussion to draft an agreement for work with cities on what would and wouldn't be allowed to post on a future historical marker.

Hollering Place- Shifting Sands Panel: Von Domitz said that there were funds left over from its original installation that should cover the replacement of the panel with a text correction. The committee agreed to use the remaining funds to replace the damaged panel with the correction of the duplicated text.

Brownsville: Bell and Keeler volunteered to lead this project at the last meeting. Bell informed the committee via email that he had done groundwork on the project. The sign needs repair and language improvement.

Captain Robert Gray: Canty-Jones recommended keeping the text but investigating more durable material to extend the life of a marker posted in this location.

Aurora: The committee suggested reaching out to the local historical society for possible new content.

James Nesmith: This is not a high priority for replacement currently.

Jesse Applegate: Von Domitz will reach out to the local community group to see if they would like to take over ownership of the marker.

Oregon Trail Interpretive Kiosks: Bonnem informed the committee of the fund-raising efforts for phase two of the project. Von Domitz said that a \$20,000 grant has been received from the Oregon Historic Trails fund. Von Domitz will also be partnering with OHS to applying for a grant from the National Historic Preservation Fund. Unfortunately, the grants that were originally planned have been discontinued or put on hold due to those funds being put to different uses. The committee then discussed possible private sponsorship partners. Bonnem recommended putting together an information packet to take to potential partners.

Old Business:

- **Beaver Hill Mine Marker Dedication:** Von Domitz said the dedication has been postponed until February 2022 more information is to come.

Council Member Report/New Business: Canty-Jones said Elizabeth Boxall has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Travel Information Council. Her first day will be November 22, 2021. Jim Denno's last day will be November 9. Daphnee Legarza will be interim Director in the meantime.

2022 Meeting Schedule

February 1, 2022 May 3, 2022 August 2, 2022 November 1, 2022

Adjourn at 2:18 p.m.