



Travel Information Council
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150
alem, OR 97302

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Barb Bonnem, Co-Vice-Chair; Gwenn Baldwin; Eliza Canty-Jones; Kelly Cannon-Miller; Ed Washington.

Excused: Nancy DeSouza, Co-Vice-Chair; Bob Garcia; Sarah Jalving.

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn; Elizabeth Boxall; Jessica Carbone.

Guest: Kylie Avery; Charlie Moses; Tom Mock.

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Porter at 1:04 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: *Washington made a motion to accept the November 11, 2022 minutes as submitted. Bonnem seconded. 4-0 Vote. Canty-Jones abstained. Due to a lack of quorum approval of the November 11 minutes will be moved to the May 2, 2023 meeting.*

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter said that after further discussions with Lina Ma a new topic for the marker emerged: the first discovery of dinosaur bones in Oregon. With further research, the fossils were identified in 1969, but could not be excavated until the 1980s. At this point, the findings were put on a shelf. It wasn't officially certified until two weeks after the Mitchell Fossil was certified as the first. The discoveries would be used as an anchor for a geology and prehistory marker. Porter asked for feedback on the topic.

Baldwin joined at 1:11 p.m.

- B. **Yaquina Bay:** Cannon-Miller said her text is still in progress. The feedback received from the contacts at State Parks and was not aligned with the feedback received from Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Cannon-Miller hopes to have a new draft for the next meeting.
- C. **Nez Perce:** Dehn introduced Charlie Moses, a Nez Perce tribal elder who sits on the board of the Nez Perce National Historical Trails Committee. He worked with Dehn on the draft text for the marker but also brought additional text to share with the committee. Moses shared there are two main subjects for the marker, the land, and the people. Moses explained the process of the original marker and how he reviewed and edited the additional text provided. The committee decided that going forward the text would be created for a modern interpretive marker instead of a routed one. Porter asked for volunteers to lead the

text edit and include the additional text provided by Moses. Washington volunteered. Dehn will reach out to DeSouza and Garcia to see if they would be available to work on the text as well.

- D. **First Coastal Expeditions – Ona Beach:** Canty-Jones is still currently working on the potential text of this marker. The marker’s location lies with a complex overlap of several different tribal lands. The next steps are for us to do outreach and engagement to make sure that the appropriate tribal knowledge holders and decision-makers are involved. Dehn will assist in communications for this marker.
- E. **Jesse Applegate:** Bonnem said that Greg Nokes, a known author who has published works about Jesse Applegate, provided new text for the marker. The draft text will be sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde and The Klamath Tribes for review and comment.
- F. **Brownsville:** Dehn reached out to the community about this marker last summer and there was a lot of support. The local historical museum, the city, and the county are interested. The marker sits between two markers created by the Scenic Byways program. Dehn noted the other partners see them all as one project. After the meeting, the county partners asked Dehn to postpone this project until 2024, when they will be better able to tackle the project as a whole.
- G. **Prehistoric River:** Dehn said she reached out to the DOGMI office and was put in contact with an eastern Oregon geologist. The geologist said he felt the marker was worth replacing. There are currently two competing theories of how the river was formed. The committee discussed the original text’s mention of Native American occupation. There is some concern about the timeline mentioned in the text, but that could be a case of semantics. Avery said that there is some evidence of Native American occupation of the area. The committee would reach out to the Confederated tribes of Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Siuslaw to see if this is something they would care to comment on or pursue. Dehn said there are funds to do a routed wood marker replacement. Due to time constraints, the committee decided to discuss this marker further at the next meeting.

New Member Application: Dehn said a new member application was received from Robert Olguin. He works at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office as the National Register Program Coordinator. He has reached out to the committee in the past to see how the two programs could work together. He is interested in joining the committee to share his knowledge and connections.

Bonnem made a motion to approve Robert Olguin as an advisory member of the committee. Canty-Jones seconded. 6-0 Vote.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Canty-Jones said that at the last Council meeting a 2023-28 strategic plan was adopted and that the Council approved the assumptions being used to create the budget for the next biennium. Boxall said she is reviewing the current legislative session for any bills that may impact the agency. Boxall also mentioned that the agency had been dealing with some staff turnover and the Rest Area Administrator position had just been filled. Porter asked for the new strategic plan to be sent out to the committee.
- B. **Klamath Tribes Field Trip Report:** Cannon-Miller said that it was a good trip. She felt they were well received, and lines of communication were opened. Cannon-Miller said that the committee hopes to see some draft text in the future. Porter said the committee was met with warmth and enthusiasm.

- C. **Salemtowne Appreciation Lunch:** Dehn said that the Salemtowne Appreciation lunch will be May 2, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Salemtowne before the 1:00 p.m. committee meeting to be held at the West Salem Library.
- D. **New Business:**

New Marker Applications:

- A. **Westport Company Town Update:** Dehn spoke to the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. They felt it was a worthwhile topic, but they did not know about Japanese history in Westport. The committee discussed at length the significance of the topic of lumber company towns in Oregon as it was an industry that helped build the state. It was decided that Bonnem would do further research into larger former logging boom towns around the state. That may be able to tell a more statewide story of the boom and bust of the logging industry. Canty-Jones thanked Dehn for communicating with the nominator.
- B. **Sir Francis Drake at Nehalem Bay:** Dehn presented a nomination to create a marker to cite Nehalem Bay as the location of Sir Francis Drake's landing on the Pacific Coast. Tom Mock, from the Sir Francis Drake Society, spoke to the committee on behalf of the nomination. Canty-Jones said, on behalf of the committee, if documentation of the landing could be supported and made more definitive by peer-reviewed publications the committee would be interested in reviewing another application at that time.

Bonnem made a motion to decline the nomination of Sir Francis Drake at Nehalem Bay. Baldwin seconded. The motion passed. 6-0 Vote.

- C. **Rough & Ready Wayside Geologic Markers:** Porter presented a combination of three nominations about different geologic features at the Rough & Ready Wayside. The committee discussed the outcrop of preidiotite as it is the largest in Oregon and the alluvial fan and Klamath Penepplain. Porter said the wayside would benefit greatly from additional information. The committee requires expertise on these three topics, even with such well-done nominations, to develop content that can reach the public. Bonnem recommended tabling these nominations until work on the two current geologic markers is complete. Dehn shared her concerns about asking DOGAMI for too much assistance at one time. Washington said that information is important and should not be dismissed due to the committee's unfamiliarity with the subject matter. Dehn will ask the nominator for more focused information and main points about the significance of the potential markers.

Washington made a motion to hold the nomination for further consideration and research. Bonnem seconded. The motion passed. 6-0 Vote.

2023 Event and Meeting Schedule

May 2- Salemtowne appreciation lunch.
Committee meeting West Salem Public Library, Salem, OR.
August 1 – TBD
November 7 - TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.