



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

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, August 1, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Barb Bonnem, Co-Vice-Chair (virtual); Nancy DeSouza; Sarah Jalving; Amy Platt; Kelly Cannon-Miller (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual)

Advisory Member: Robert Olguin

Excused: Bob Garcia; Ed Washington

Guests: Katie Bush; Bob Zybach

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

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Porter at 1:07 p.m.

Public Comment: Zybach presented public comment about the Jedediah Smith Historical Marker on behalf of the Umpqua Memorial Committee. Zybach shared the group's concerns that the marker isn't local, isn't historically accurate, and misses the main significance of the events that happened there. He requested the current marker be removed and replaced with a marker similar to the original marker as a high priority. Porter thanked Zybach for his comments and opened the floor to questions from the committee. Hearing none, Porter noted that written comments were included in the packet as a reference.

Approval of the Minutes: *DeSouza made a motion to accept the May 2, 2023 minutes as submitted. Jalving seconded. 8-0 Vote.*

Elections: Porter presented the proposed slate of candidates, including renewing Bonnem's committee term for three years and re-electing Porter as chair and Bonnem as vice-chair for a one-year term. *8-0 vote.*

*There was no official motion or second for this vote. It will be added to the agenda at the next meeting.

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Upper Klamath Lake:** Dehn explained the text in the packet reflects the edits the committee suggested at the May meeting. Dehn and Cannon-Miller retained the present tense of the verb *provides* in the second paragraph as a nod to the conservation message

the Tribe originally wanted to include but didn't meet historical marker standards. Dehn and Cannon-Miller sent this text to the Klamath Tribal Council for approval. The Tribal Council felt the shorted text reflected the sentiments they wanted included in the marker and approved the marker. Dehn stated that she communicated to the Tribal Council that the production timeline is dependent on the drying cycle of the wood in storage. Installation of this marker would be in spring 2024 at the earliest. The committee discussed a grammatical issue of defining *demands on the lake*.

Robert Olguin joined the meeting at 1:32 pm

Katie Bush left the meeting at 1:34 pm

Jalving moved to approve the text of the Upper Klamath Lake marker as approved by the Klamath Tribal Council. Bonnem seconded. 8-0

- B. **Prehistoric River:** Dehn presented an updated version of the text as edited by Jason McClaughry at the Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries and Julie Donnelly-Nolan and Bob Jensen from the United States Geological Survey. Dehn reported that the geologists are in agreement about how the geology is presented, which brings in the new idea that two geological events created the canyon. McClaughry also suggested renaming the marker Dry River rather than Prehistoric River so that history isn't being defined by the written record. Dehn noted that she sent this to the Warm Springs Tribes for comment regarding the original last line of the original text about Native encampments but has not received a response. Porter asked about defining a geologic time frame. Bonnem inquired about including Canyon in the title. The Committee decided to prioritize providing more time for feedback from the Tribes and determined to hold further discussion at the next meeting.
- C. **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter gave the committee an overview of the current draft text that focuses on the physical site of the Cape, its geology, and the discovery of dinosaur bones. The text has been sent to experts for their comment, these include Samantha Hopkins, Curator of Paleontology at The Museum of Natural and Cultural History, but no comment has been received.
- D. **Yaquina Bay:** Cannon-Miller said that Dehn has developed three different possible draft texts using all the feedback provided on the original draft. Cannon-Miller and Dehn will continue to coordinate and discuss the best options to present to the committee after Dehn returns from maternity leave.
- E. **Nez Perce:** Dehn said she had hoped to have a visual draft to show the committee today, but the project is a bit behind schedule. A contract has been signed with Sea Reach. The current timeline is to have a first draft to present at the November meeting for edits and suggestions and a final draft ready for the February meeting. Dehn said it was important to keep this project moving forward to keep in line with the grant funding timeline requirements.

New Projects:

- A. **First Coastal Expeditions:** Dehn told the committee a summary of the marker history and that it is on the high-priority replacement list. Dehn has spoken with the park manager where the sign is

located, and they suggested making the sign about the history of the marsh. The marsh is the last native marsh on the Oregon coast. She asked for a volunteer to lead the project and have possible sign ideas about the area ready to share at the next meeting. Jalving volunteered.

- B. **Brownsville:** Dehn said that Brownsville is another marker on the high-priority text replacement list. The marker is currently in very poor condition. She said that earlier in the year there was some interest from the county to combine our revision project with the two other signs at the site, but there have been some complications with funding. Dehn recommended continuing with the revision of our marker. Bonnem volunteered to do further research on new content for that marker.
- C. **Peter Skene Ogden Wayside:** Dehn said that during past discussions of the three Peter Skene markers that had been in the marker inventory the marker at Peter Skene Rest Area was put on the high-priority text replacement list for its problematic text in a highly visible location. Dehn informed the committee that if a solid idea could be developed by next August it would be possible to apply for funding from the Historic Trails Grant. Platt volunteered to lead the project.

New Marker Applications

New Era: Dehn summarized an application sent in by Zachary Stocks with Oregon Black Pioneers. The application covers three major items but doesn't go into detail about any of them. The three topics include the site as the location of a spiritualist movement, it has a limited connection to George Washington Bush, an African American who came over on the Oregon Trail but was forced to move on due to exclusion laws, and the Oregon Central Railroad. Olguin said that Bush predates the New Area settlement but was connected to the person who owned the land that would become the New Area community. Olguin couldn't find much information on the community. Porter said he would connect with local community members to do further research about the area or possible funding. The committee discussed the need for further information, the nomination could go forward as presented. The marker will continue to be discussed at the next meeting.

New Member Application:

Katie Bush: Dehn presented the new member application of Katie Bush. Bush is currently a public historian at Clark County Museum and came highly recommended by Dr. Katy Barber at Portland State University. The committee discussed Bush's resume and some of their personal experiences working with Bush.

Jalving made a motion to accept Kaite Bush as a new member of the Historical Marker Committee. DeSouza seconded. 7-0 Vote.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Boxall said the agency has been working toward the agency exceptions that were set forth by the governor at the beginning of the year and settling down from a lot of staffing changes, especially in leadership, that happened in the last year. Boxall informed the committee that nothing that happened in the latest legislative session had a large impact on the agency. Boxall also continues to monitor the discussion around ODOT's budget concerns, since TIC is affected similarly in our rest areas. Boxall also informed the committee that Eliza Canty-Jones put TIC in contact with Senator Merkley's office about a particular opportunity for Congressional District funding. Through that process the Oregon Trail Kiosk project as be earmarked for \$220,000 if the Federal budget passes.

- B. **Advisory Member Report:** Olguin informed the committee of the current projects that his department has been working on. One of those projects focuses on a statewide women's history project, but the topic is so large there are still discussions on what the major focuses of that project will be. Another project is on African-American history outside of Portland, such as Maxville. Three sites are coming into the national register program that speaks to LGBTQ history.
- C. **New Business:** Dehn told the committee if they would like more information about the marker that was addressed in the public comment she would make all the historic decisions that occurred in the creation of that marker available to them and if further discussion is needed it can be put on the February meeting. The committee discussed the history of the current marker text. Dehn will send a response to the Umpqua Memorial committee.

2023/2024 Event and Meeting Schedule

November 7, 2023 – Salem/Hybrid

February 6, 2024

May 14, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.