



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

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

**Members Participating:** David Porter, Chair; Barb Bonnem, Co-Vice-Chair (virtual); Katie Bush (virtual); Nancy DeSouza (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual); Ed Washington.

**Advisory Member:** Robert Olguin (virtual)

**Excused:** Bob Garcia; Sarah Jalving; Kelly Cannon-Miller; Dave Hedberg

**Guests:** Charlie Esparza, OGEC

**TIC Staff Participating:** Elizabeth Boxall; Jessica Carbone.

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**Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Porter at 1:02 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of the Minutes:** *Bonnem made a motion to accept the August 1, 2023 minutes with the correction of the spelling of Kaite Bush's name. DeSouza seconded. 6-0 Vote.*

**New Marker Applications**

- A. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** The committee discussed the nomination submitted for a marker that would commemorate the Oregon Nisei Veterans of WWII who served in the Japanese-American segregated units of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the 552<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion and the Nisei women that served in the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) and the Woman's Army Corps (WAC). During World War II, 437 Oregon Nisei soldiers served in the armed forces, while their families were incarcerated in camps. The nomination includes a list of their accomplishments and awards during this time. But after the war, these soldiers were not welcomed home. Names of 16 Nisei soldiers were blotted out from a Hood River honor roll of 1,600 GIs. Carbone said the nomination proposed location for the site is by the current Oregon Nisei Veterans WWII Memorial Hwy ODOT sign on the north end of the Hwy 35 just south of Hood River near mile marker 101. Carbone read out email comments sent in by Hedberg and Cannon-Miller. Both Hedberg and Cannon-Miller expressed their support for their nomination. Washington shared his experience with George Nakata who experienced the internment camps during this time and when the Japanese students returned to his classroom at Vanport after internment was lifted. Washington expressed strong support for this marker. Platt said she appreciated the

possible safety issues, but felt the marker's location next to the highway sign would be important for more information about the reason behind the memorial highway. Bush asked if it would be possible to take this story and expand its relationship to agriculture and farming in additional places in Oregon as additional research is done on places where internment camps or farming camps were located, such as Hood River and Nyssa. Washington said there was a connection in Ontario as well. Bonnem suggested more time for research allow greater conversation at the next meeting.

*Bonnem made a motion to table the nomination until the next meeting. Washington seconded. 6-0 Vote.*

- B. **Salem Began Here:** Carbone presented a nomination by the City of Salem to install a new marker on the early history of the city of Salem. The nomination came about after the City of Salem Historic Landmarks Commission voted to remove and replace or retain and update the original Salem Centennial sign located on Broadway St. in Salem. The commission voted to direct staff to remove the existing sign and work with TIC and the Historical Marker Committee to sponsor a new large site-specific marker. The replacement marker would be located at Riverfront Park, the location of the original Santiam Kalapuyan Village site. The sign would contain information about the indigenous culture/traditions practiced here along the Willamette River; An overview of the initial Euro-American settlement which began in 1841-1842 (with the Methodist Missionary construction of their Saw/Grist Mill; the Jason Lee House, the Parsonage, and the Indian Manual Labor Training School.) Ideally, the TIC sign would include a map showing the general location of each of these sites. The City of Salem has plans to create additional signage at the above-mentioned Euro-American sites. Carbone informed the committee that the marker if approved, would be completely funded by the City of Salem. Olguin provided information about his review of the site for the National Register of Historic Places and the public archaeology related to the location. Porter recommend tabling the nomination until the next meeting where time would allow for a more in-depth discussion

*Bonnem made a motion to table the nomination until the next meeting. Washington seconded. 6-0 Vote.*

#### **Current Marker Projects:**

- A. ~~**Prehistoric River/**~~ **Dry River Canyon:** Carbone presented the text revisions submitted by Bob Jensen and Julie Donnelly-Nolan. The committee discussed text revisions to get the text from 130 words to 120. The final text will be sent to the ODOT sign shop for a design draft.
- B. **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter said he has been working on the text and is still waiting to find out the Siletz traditional name for the cape. Porter is working with the Assistant Director of paleontology at U of O for commentary on the discovery of the bones in the cape. Porter did not feel the text he had was ready to come before the committee, but it would be ready by the next meeting.
- C. **Yaquina Bay:** Cannon-Miller was unable to attend the meeting and there was no update at this time.
- D. **Nez Perce:** Carbone presented the first draft of the marker design by SeaReach to the committee. Overall, the committee expressed their liking of the design. The committee made text and design corrections. Carbone will send it back to SeaReach to make the edits.

- E. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Jalving was unable to attend the meeting and there was no update at this time.
- F. **Brownsville:** There was no update at this time.
- G. **Peter Skene Ogden Wayside:** Platt suggested that the marker's content focus more on the location where the marker is located instead of who it was named after. Carbone said that there were currently three markers in the program that contain content about Ogden. Carbone then read comments and suggestions submitted by Cannon-Miller about the area around the marker. The committee discussed the other signs at the location, their topics, and other possible topics for the marker including the bridges that cross the canyon and the "railroad wars" between Hill and Harriman to see whose railroad was going to be built and their importance to Central Oregon.

*Platt made a motion to move the topic of the marker away from Peter Skene Ogden and explore a new theme for the site. Washington seconded. 6-0 Vote.*

### **Committee Member Reports/ New Business**

- A. **Council Report:** Boxall said that the agency continues to work through its strategic planning initiatives around future funding, organizational development, and IT needs. Boxall said the agency is continuing the work to work on meeting the requirements under the Governor's agency expectations that were set last January.
- B. **Advisory Member Report:** Olguin informed the committee that the Main Street conference that was in Independence, OR this year had a record attendance of over 200 people. There are 15 and the agency is meeting at least 11 of them if not more. At the end of October, four commissions meet in Enterprise. These commissions included the Heritage Commission, the Cemetery Commission, the Commission related to National Register nominations, as well as a tax incentive Commission. Olguin said that about 50 people from governor-appointed commissions and committee members attended. Olguin informed the committee that the Oregon Heritage Conference will be taking place in Forest Grove in April and welcomed them to attend.
- C. **New Business:** There was no new business presented.

Boxall left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

**Ethics Training:** Charlie Esparza from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission provided training to the committee on the Use of Office and Conflicts of Interest

### **2024 Event and Meeting Schedule**

February 6, 2024 - Hybrid Meeting  
May 7, 2024  
August 6, 2024  
November 5, 2024

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.