



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

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Katie Bush (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Sarah Jalving (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual)

Excused: Kelly Cannon-Miller; Nancy DeSouza; Bob Garcia; Ed Washington

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn; Jessica Carbone

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: *Jalving made a motion to accept the February 6, 2024 minutes. Hedberg seconded. 5-0 Vote.*

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Yaquina Bay:** Dehn presented two options for text that were created with input from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI). High level edits included changing the timeline to millennia, circling back to the Yakona descendants at the end of the text to enforce their continued stewardship of the land, and adjusting the spelling of Yakona to Yaqona based on linguistic recordings where the sound is a bit further back in the mouth. The committee discussed the two options and preferred the version that referenced the wagon road from the Willamette Valley.

Hedberg motioned to accept the first text option. Jalving seconded. 5-0 Vote.

- B. **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter presented a final draft of text based on feedback from CTSI, DOGAMI, and paleontologists at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at UO. The committee provided a small grammatical correction.

Hedberg motioned to accept the text as amended. Jalving seconded. 5-0 Vote.

- C. **Nez Perce:** Dehn presented the final design draft from Sea Reach. The marker is currently in production. The goal for fabrication is late June with installation in early July.
- D. **Peter Skene Ogden Wayside:** Platt updated the committee that she completed research for the marker and is currently drafting the text.
- E. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Jalving visited the site and noted that the location is both a park and a wayside with a lot of good traffic. She will talk with the rangers about

holes in their current interpretation and bring options to the next meeting.

- F. **Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside:** Dehn had no updates at this time.
- G. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** Dehn reported that since the last meeting she has worked on permitting for the highway right-of-way south of Hood River. As a next step, she and the TIC Sign Crew Manager are arranging a time to meet the ODOT District 2 permitting manager at the site to select GPS coordinates. Dehn also communicated with the nominator who is helping connect to content experts in the Japanese American community. Dehn asked for 1-2 volunteers to join the subcommittee. Hedberg and Bush volunteered.
- H. **Salem Begun Here:** Dehn met with the City of Salem about location and permitting in River Front Park. The Salem Parks Board reviewed the proposed location and has approved it in writing. Dehn asked for 1-2 volunteers to join the subcommittee of a Salem Historic Landmarks Commission member, Willamette Heritage Center staff, and City of Salem employee. Jalving volunteered. Dehn will arrange a kick-off meeting.

Marker Process Discussion: Dehn shared some take-aways from the recent public requests for information about markers to help the program keep more thorough records. This includes clearly documenting decisions via votes, adding the names all experts who consulted on the text, and documenting a short list of sources and references for each marker. The committee discussed the general marker process and considered potential procedures to add to the program guidelines.

Form Administrative Rules Subcommittee: Dehn explained the administrative rules for the Historical Marker Program were written in 1995 with some updates made in 2009 and 2014. They are currently out of date with how the program is run. The goal of reviewing the OARs is to update the rules with current practices. Dehn explained the process and timeline and then asked for volunteers. Porter and Jalving volunteered. Dehn will invite DeSouza.

Oregon Historical Marker Program Charter Modification: Dehn presented a housekeeping update to the Historical Marker Program Charter. The proposed change is to amend Membership item 7. The amendment will remove the expectation that committee membership will be approved by the Council and add the expectation that a roster of committee membership will be presented to the Council annually for networking purposes. The amendment will also add that the Council has the right to remove a member of the volunteer committee, placing that action at the highest level of the agency should it be needed.

Bush motioned to approve the proposed amendment to the Historical Marker Charter. Hedberg seconded. Vote 5-0.

Oregon Trail Kiosk Update: Dehn shared that the Council received \$220K in Congressionally Directed funds to help fund the final production and installation phase of the project.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Carbone reported that the agency is recruiting an executive director. There will be an interim director until the new hire is made in September.
 - B. **New Business: Tsunami Newport:** Dehn reported that the Oregon Coast Aquarium requested the graphics on the Tsunami Marker in front of their building be redesigned and the marker be moved to the picnic area. The TIC sign crew inspected the marker and location and determined the condition placed it in the category for continued maintenance and repairs. The crew also determined re-locating the marker in its current condition wasn't cost-effective. When presented with long-term maintenance options, the Aquarium asked for the marker to be removed. This
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marker is part of a series of three markers with the exact same information. Because the landowner requested removal, there are two other markers with identical information, and some of the information is likely out of date, staff recommended removal and using limited resources elsewhere. The committee requested DOGAMI be informed of the removal.

Jalving motioned to remove the Tsunami marker at Oregon Aquarium due to condition, inaccurate information, and request by the landowner. Bush seconded. 5-0 Vote.

2024 Event and Meeting Schedule

August 6, 2024

November 5, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

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