



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

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Katie Bush (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Kelly Cannon-Miller (virtual); Bob Garcia (virtual); Diane DeAutremont (virtual); Robert Olguin (virtual)

Excused: Amy Platt, Amy Sherwood; Nancy DeSouza; Sarah Jalving

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: Cannon-Miller made a motion to accept the August 6, 2024 minutes. Bush seconded. 6-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Bush- yes; Hedberg- yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Garcia- yes; DeAutremont-yes.

Elections: Garcia made a motion to elect Cannon-Miller to a one-year term as vice-chair. Hedberg seconded. 6-0 vote. Porter-yes; Bush- yes; Hedberg- yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Garcia- yes; DeAutremont-yes.

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** Bush and Heberg reported that the subcommittee met several times and completed a very collaborative editing process to provide the committee with a final draft to discuss. Careful attention was taken with the verbiage. The committee discussed using Oregon Historical Quarterly as a style guide, which defaults to Chicago Style. The committee discussed replacing the term *GI* with *veteran*.

Heberg motioned to approve the Oregon Nisei Veterans text to move into the design phase with the edits suggested. Garcia seconded. 6-0 Vote.

- B. **Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden Wayside:** Platt absent; no update.
- C. **Salem Began Here:** Dehn shared that she and Jalving followed-up with members of the subcommittee, who confirmed there is a lack of pre-contact research that has been done on Chemeketa. Everyone agreed there needs to be more depth to describe a “vibrant village” for the marker to be meaningful. Fitzgerald will be researching ethnographies of Grand Ronde tribal members from the late 1800s at the archives in Seattle. She will engage Robert Kentta as he is interested and able to help. The committee discussed slowing the

timeline down to get more meaningful content and additional historians to approach.

- D. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** The committee discussed reframing the marker to discuss indigenous trade routes, coastal routes in particular, in the area and Ona Beach as a place of exchange with the arrival of fur traders, including natural goods, misunderstandings, disease, etc... This could bring in the indigenous perspectives of justice versus Hudson's Bay Company policy. The focus would remain on interpreting place but show active agency of the people in the place who had been trading there for millennia.
- E. **Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside:** Dehn reported that she received an email from the nominator that fundraising hasn't gone as expected and he doesn't think it will be possible to get funding in time for a dedication in 2027. The project will be placed on hold until the nominator resumes communications. It will be re-positioned in priority at that time.
- F. **Sandy River Bridge:** The committee looked at maps created by ODOT and OPRD of the route of the historic highway. The official beginning of the route is where the Sandy River Bridge marker is located. There is additional interpretation along the route at the Women's Forum and Vista House. Dehn will follow-up with Jalving about recommendations from Bob Hadlow at ODOT about a Columbia River Highway Marker.
- G. **Troutdale:** Dehn shared photos of the location at the Troutdale visitor center, which is a reconstructed train station that was moved about 1.5 miles from its original location. Dehn suggested that the stories that meet the criteria of state or national significance are Coxy's Army, with the recognition the train station has been rebuilt and moved, the history of smelt runs in the Sandy River, or rewriting a version of the current marker. The committee discussed the importance of doing the replacement in a community-driven way and decided to communicate with the City of Troutdale about their interpretive planning as a next step.

Retired Marker Donation- Scottsburg: Dehn reported that the TIC Sign Crew noted that the Scottsburg Marker is physically failing to the point it is now a safety hazard. There has been an ongoing conversation with community members about replacing the marker. ODOT is working through a mitigation plan for the nearby bridge that will pay for marker repairs. The plan is for the ODOT historians to manage the replacement and work with the Historical Marker Committee for text edits and approval. TIC was approached by the community to keep the marker that will be removed. Dehn reached out to other state programs about how they handle retired marker donations. Consideration is given to how the retired interpretation could be harmful out of context. Oregon largely doesn't have that issue due the size of the markers and the natural lifespan of wood. Dehn pointed to a state policy that if the object is valued at less than \$250 the agency can choose how to proceed. Staff recommendation is to consider such donations on a case-by-case basis should this arise in the future. In this case, the Scottsburg Community Association is a 501c3 with a historic preservation mission. No other historical organization was identified in the community. The committee discussed how to document the donation, including receipt of donation.

Bush motioned to donate the Scottsburg marker to the Scottsburg Community Association, a nonprofit entity with a historic preservation mission. Garcia seconded. 6-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Bush- yes; Hedberg- yes; Cannon-Miller-yes; Garcia- yes; DeAutremont- yes.

Dedication Updates: Dehn reported that she is hopeful the Ewes marker (Upper Klamath Lake) will be installed this fall. She is reaching out to Klamath Tribes to offer a dedication but has no response to date. Dehn is also working on installation of the Nez Perce marker and will offer a dedication after it is installed. The committee will be informed if a dedication date is selected.

Annual Training: The committee completed the annual discrimination and harassment free workplace training and had an opportunity to ask questions.
HM Committee Minutes 11-5-2024 (Approved 2-4-2025)

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Garcia reported that after two rounds of recruitment for an executive direction, the Council offered a direct appointment to Mac Lynde, formerly with Oregon Emergency Management and a long history in operations and project management at ODOT. His skill set is closely aligned with the needs of the agency. Garcia thanked Auman for his work as interim, appreciated staff input in the process, and is happy to announce Lynde's arrival. Garcia also noted the priority of the agency will be funding the rest area program.
- B. **Advisory Member Report:** None
- C. **New Business:** None

2024 Event and Meeting Schedule

February 4, 2025

May 6, 2025

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.