



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

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: Kelly Cannon-Miller, Vice-Chair; Robert Olguin; David Porter, Chair (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Bob Garcia (virtual); Kimberly Gorman (virtual)

Excused: Katie Bush; Nancy DeSouza, Sarah Jalving

Guest: Charlotte Lehan (virtual)

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone, Mac Lynde

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Cannon-Miller at 1:11 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: *Porter made a motion to accept February 4, 2025 minutes as presented. Garcia seconded. 6-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Garcia-yes; Gorman-yes.*

Marker Production/Installation Update: Dehn presented the status of projects that have been approved by the committee but are not yet in the ground. Updates included: Upper Klamath Lake was installed in late April and the committee is communicating with Klamath Tribal Council about coordinating a dedication; Cape Sebastian was completed by Oregon Corrections Enterprises and is at the TIC yard waiting for installation; Yaquina Bay is waiting for text routing at the ODOT Sign Shop; and Captain Robert Gray is in production at SeaReach. The committee discussed the condition of the inventory, pain points in the production process, and a tentative timeline to address the twelve markers that are currently in need of full replacement.

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** Hedberg presented the final design draft prepared by SeaReach and asked for final comments. None were received. The marker will now move into production. Hedberg and Dehn discussed the community partners' excitement in the process, their appreciation of the state recognizing this history, and their enthusiasm to begin planning the dedication, currently scheduled for Veteran's Day 2025.
- B. **Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden Wayside:** Cannon-Miller will visit the site to review the location and existing interpretation. She will adjust the draft text accordingly.
- C. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Dehn shared that she has not had a chance to connect with Jalving to discuss how to appropriately discuss a well-documented conflict related to the location. To move the process forward, she will send a draft to Jalving and Confederated Tribes of Siletz for feedback.

- D. **Sandy River Bridge:** The committee reviewed the draft text presented by ODOT. Dehn will prepare a revised version of the text to read more like a marker and confirm that draft with Jalving.
- E. **Troutdale:** Dehn summarized the past year of conversations with the Troutdale community. The committee recognized the city is currently focused on a large interpretive signage project along the river. After weighing the work required to change the current marker topic and location, Dehn recommended permanently removing Troutdale from the program but encouraging the community to reapply with a new topic if desired. The committee discussed the priority of replacing the Sandy River Bridge marker and utilizing the sign crew to remove the Troutdale marker on the same day they install Sandy River Bridge replacement.

Porter motioned to permanently remove the Troutdale marker from the program and communicate with the community about collaborating at a future time. Hedberg seconded. 6-0 vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Garcia-yes; Gorman-yes

Lynde left the meeting 1:44pm

- F. **Boone's Landing:** Lehan, representing Wilsonville Historical Society, presented draft revisions to the Boone's Landing marker. She clarified the need to consult with the tribes on how to discuss the river crossing that was likely used for centuries. Lehan noted that the old marker had a photo of Albert Gallatin, incorrectly identified as Alphonso Boone. Albert never made it to Oregon. Additionally, the marker should give credit to Jesse Boone rather than Alphonso. Alphonso got to Oregon and immediately headed to the gold fields where he soon died. Jesse is the family member who got a land claim and commercialized the ferry operation, that presumably the local Tuality Indians created long before. Jesse's main contribution was building Boone's Ferry Road, which would have improved access to the ferry and is why I-5 parallels Boone's Ferry Road. Lehan also noted there are better photos of the ferry from the horse and wagon days. A member of the Boone family is trying to track down an image of Jesse.
- G. **Salem Began Here:** No update; Dehn has a meeting with the City of Salem next week and will have more to report in August.

Reaffirm Value Statement: The committee reviewed the Value Statement written and adopted in 2020 and considered draft language to add to the website. The committee discussed the importance of having a transparent process at a time people may be skeptical and perhaps mistrusting of how the past is presented. The group agreed there is wisdom in avoiding buzz words and instead focusing on process. The committee discussed that public dedications will underscore their commitment to this work. The committee suggested fundraising be explained as an opportunity for communities to come together to fund markers. Members will send Dehn thoughts and revisions to the website language by the end of May.

Porter moved to reaffirm the Oregon Historical Marker Committee Value Statement. Hedberg seconded. 6-0 vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Garcia-yes; Gorman-yes.

Travel Oregon Tribal Tourism Marker Discussion: Dehn reported that she had a meeting with the Director of Industry Relations and Travel Oregon's Tribal Liaison on how to get some traction on tribal the marker project. Travel Oregon has funding to support around eight marker projects. Dehn proposed starting with existing tribal markers.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Garcia welcomed Lynde to the agency and shared that the Council is waiting on the legislative session to learn how funding for the Rest Area Program will pan out.
- B. **Advisory Member Report:** Olguin reported the deputy SHPO is retiring at the end of June and staff changes are being made. The office is also working on implementing the Heritage Hub database, which will combine archeological and above ground records in an online database accessible to everyone.
- C. **New Business:** None

2025 Event and Meeting Schedule

August 5, 2025

November 4, 2025

November 11, 2025: Oregon Nisei Veterans Marker Dedication

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2025, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.