



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

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Barb Bonnem, Co-Vice-Chair (virtual); Katie Bush (virtual); Kelly Cannon-Miller (virtual); Nancy DeSouza (virtual); Bob Garcia (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Sarah Jalving (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual); Ed Washington (virtual).

Advisory Member: Robert Olguin

Guests: Doug Barret, Vice-Chair Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI); Ashley Russell (CTCLUSI); Courtney Krossman, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for CTCLUSI; Nicole Romine (CTCLUSI); Patty Phillips, Tribal Linguist CTCLUSI; Bob Zybach.

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

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

Public Comment: Barret requested more consultation with the tribes when markers are created and when they are reviewed or removed from the program. Phillips shared feedback on the Jedediah Smith marker. She noted that it might be clearer to refer to the tribes of the Lower Umpqua as the Lower Umpqua instead of multiple names. Phillips recommended changing the focus from Smith's entire life to his time on Bolon Island.

Approval of the Minutes: *DeSouza made a motion to accept the November 7, 2023 minutes as amended for two grammatical errors. Jalving seconded. 8-0 Vote. Hedberg abstained.*

Washington joined the meeting at 1:14 pm

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Cape San Sebastian:** Porter presented the first draft of the text for the Cape San Sebastian marker featuring the discovery of the first dinosaur fossil found in Oregon. Dehn confirmed the spelling of the native name of the cape. The committee offered feedback and will continue to work on the draft text for the next meeting.
- B. **Yaquina Bay:** Cannon-Miller and Dehn presented three possible drafts of text for the Yaquina Bay marker. After discussion, the committee decided to send all three draft texts to the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz for their feedback.
- C. **Nez Perce:** Dehn explained the updated draft of the Nez Perce marker design and additional suggested edits. The committee discussed and made recommendations. Dehn requested any additional comments or suggestions be emailed to her as soon as possible.
- D. **Peter Skene Ogden Wayside:** Platt shared the research she had done on other possible

topics for the revised marker and asked the committee for help in choosing a direction for her research. Cannon-Miller shared her support for the topic covering the "railroad war" between Hill and Harriman to see whose railroad was going to be built and their importance to Central Oregon. Dehn offered to connect with the rest area supervisor where the marker is located to see if there is any preexisting signage created by Oregon State Parks and Recreation that covers that topic.

- E. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Jalving asked the committee for help in choosing a direction for her research. She has visited the site and taken photos. After discussion with the committee, Jalving will see what topics of interest for the marker's current location would be and bring those back to the committee for discussion. Dehn told Jalving she would provide any past notes staff has on the possible topic discussion.
- F. **Brownsville:** Bonnem shared some of her research on Brownsville's history. She hopes to have a proposed topic for the committee at the next meeting.
- G. **Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside:** Dehn informed the committee that over the last year since the nomination was approved work has been slowly happening. The goal is to complete this project is 2027, the 100th anniversary of the wayside. Dehn presented the proposed location map that the nominator had worked on with the OPRD manager and shared that the nominator is also working on fundraising for the three pedestal markers. Dehn said the nominator hopes to have the fundraising done by the end of the year. Once approval of the location has been received in writing from OPRD, interpretive work will move forward and Dehn will reach out to DOGAMI for help vetting the mark text.

New Marker Applications

- A. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** Dehn said that she reached out to the nominator, Eric Ballinger, and he felt very strongly that it made sense to put the marker next to the veteran's memorial hwy sign because that designation and the act of legislation it took to create it, spurred a lot of what has happened over the last two years about recognizing the contributions of the Nisei veterans and the racism they faced returning to the Hood River Valley. A local rest area supervisor visited the proposed location and confirmed the pull-off is safe. Dehn shared the location's significance to the content of the marker. The Japanese American Museum of Oregon has letters from Hood River families that disagreed with the decision to remove the names of the Japanese veterans.

Bob Zybach joined the meeting at 2:00 pm

Dehn said if the committee decides to move forward with this nomination, the next step would be confirming the location and then reaching out to the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

Cannon-Miller made a motion to approve the nomination of the Oregon Nisei Veterans marker. Bonnem seconded. 10-0 Vote.

- B. **Salem Began Here:** Dehn said that she had reached out to the nominator and clarified the scope of the nomination which would mostly encompass the Santiam Kayapuya Village and the Methodist mission.

*DeSouza made a motion to approve the nomination for the **Salem Began Here** marker. Hedberg seconded. 10-0 Vote.*

- C. **New Era:** Dehn said that this nomination had been tabled by the committee in August. Porter reached out to some local contacts in Oregon City. After further investigation and research Porter could not find any stronger statewide significance of the New Era site or a safe public location for a marker to be installed. The committee discussed the nomination's content, lack of state significance, and the challenges faced by the potential locations of the marker.

Hedberg made a motion to decline the New Era nomination. Jalving seconded. 10-0 Vote.

Salemtowne Maintenance Report: Dehn reported that the Salemtowne volunteers took five maintenance trips during the summer of 2023. Salemtowne visited, assessed, and maintained 36 markers in the Willamette Valley, North Coast, and Central Oregon. Four markers were found to be in poor condition. The Williamson River marker will need to be completely razed and rebuilt. Dehn will reach out to the Upper Klamath tribes for possible new topics.

Discussion on Umpqua Memorial Committee's Request: Dehn shared the written testimony submitted by Umpqua Memorial Committee at the August meeting. It was not open for discussion at the time because it was submitted as a public comment. However, because a formal request was made in the testimony, the committee will be addressing it at this time. The request is to remove the existing Jedediah Smith panel, replace it with a panel that is more accurate and meaningful historically and more relevant locally, and to give high priority to those actions. Porter asked the committee to consider the Umpqua Memorial Committee's request in the context of the Historical Marker Committee's process. Dehn shared a summarized history of the marker. This history presented included meeting minutes documenting an intentional shift to focus on Smith's contributions to mapping the territory rather than one event, outreach and communication with The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to balance the tribe's perspective with Smith's, and input from the Oregon Historic Trails Committee. There was discussion about changing the word massacre to the word skirmish and that impact. Dehn also informed the committee of past public comments received about this marker and the committee's response at that time. Porter said that this marker is in good condition and does not rise to the level of urgent replacement. Phillips shared the different stories on the native side of why the attack on Smith's party happened.

Bonnem made a motion to direct Dehn to respond to the Umpqua Memorial Committee that after a thorough discussion, the committee has decided the marker will not be addressed until its physical condition requires a replacement. The text will be reviewed at that time and The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians will be consulted for feedback. Jalving second. 10-0 Vote.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Garica shared that the Council has approved funding necessary for emergency clean-up and repairs to reopen two rest areas due to damage suffered from the recent storms.
- B. **Advisory Member Report:** Olguin requested all members of the committee take the Oregon Heritage Vitality Study. The study aims to help the Oregon Heritage Commission understand the state of the heritage sector, and all things heritage, learn about issues, and possible solutions, and help boost heritage work across the state. Olguin also informed the committee that many grants, such as the Main Street grant, have opened.

Zybach left the meeting at 2:49pm

C. **New Business:** There was no new business presented.

2024 Event and Meeting Schedule

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, May 7, 2024, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.