



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

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

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Katie Bush (virtual); Kelly Cannon-Miller (virtual); Sarah Jalving (virtual); Bob Garcia (virtual); Nancy DeSouza (virtual)

Excused: Amy Platt

Guest: Amy Sherwood

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn; Mike Auman

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Porter at 1:01 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: *De Souza made a motion to accept the May 7, 2024 minutes. Jalving seconded. 6-0 Vote.*

Elections: Dehn presented the chair and vicechair positions. Cannon-Miller volunteered to consider the vice-chair position given the duties. Porter volunteered for one more year as chair if needed.

Garcia made a motion to elect Porter to a one-year term as chair. DeSouza seconded. 5-0 vote.

Garcia made a motion to elect DeSouza to a three-year committee term. Cannon-Miller seconded. 5-0 vote.

New Member Application: The committee reviewed Sherwood's resume. Sherwood introduced herself and shared her background in archaeology, anthropology, and archives as well as an interest in increasing public access to history. She is currently a reference and digital access archivist at State Archives and was recommended by the state archivist.

Bush made a motion to accept Sherwood to a 3-year committee term. Garcia seconded. 6-0 vote.

Proposed Sponsorship Rate Increase: Dehn reported that she is working with SeaReach to create a 2-year price agreement for the committee to stay ahead of cost increases. The last increase to the sponsorship price was \$200 in 2021. Staff recommends increasing the sponsorship rate to \$8,000 for a large modern marker and \$3,900 for a pedestal marker. The committee discussed going out to bid in the future to be sure the costs are competitive. The committee agreed they are currently satisfied with SeaReach and found the cost increase reasonable.

DeSouza made a motion to increase the sponsorship cost to \$8,000 for a modern marker and \$3,900 for a pedestal marker. Jalving seconded. 7-0 vote.

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden Wayside:** Platt absent; no update.
- B. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Jalving reported that ideas were sent to Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. Dehn shared that CTSI suggested keeping the fur trade topic but bringing in the perspective of the native people to those initial years of trade and the impact.
- C. **Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside:** Dehn reported that she and the nominator are communicating about timeline. The goal is to have the markers installed by 2027 for the 100th anniversary of the wayside. To meet that installation goal, text should be approved by August 2025. The next year will focus on text writing and revisions.
- D. **Oregon Nisei Veterans:** Bush reported the subcommittee, including the Director of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Linda Tamura, Eric Ballinger, Hedberg, Dehn, and Bush, met in July and reviewed Tamura's first text draft. Bush, Hedberg and Dehn worked to add more background context about anti-Japanese sentiments juxtaposed against the US Military asking for Nisei volunteers. The committee discussed adding more Oregon specific images and would like to see a refined draft in November. The subcommittee will continue refining text and images.
- E. **Salem Began Here:** Dehn reported that the subcommittee, including the curator from Willamette Heritage Center, a member of the Historic Landmarks Commission, and the City of Salem, met in June to discuss the interpretive focus of the marker. The group discussed whether there was enough information to focus the marker exclusively on the history of Chemeketa no later than 1844, rather than focusing on re-settlement. Kylie Pine mocked up a potential concept to test this. The subcommittee then met with the City of Salem's tribal roundtable for initial feedback. Jalving reported that Grand Ronde and Siletz representatives liked the direction, encouraged using native place names, and supported focusing on the importance of the river. They did not feel translating the entire panel into the Kalapuyan language was necessary. Jalving and Dehn will continue working with the subcommittee to refine the text and locate images.
- F. **Troutdale:** Dehn shared that the Troutdale marker is on the high priority text replacement list and is also in poor physical condition. She met with the director of Troutdale Historical Society to get initial feedback. He suggested keeping the story of the city's founder, possibly removing Coxey's Army, and noted that the location is the access point to the smelt runs. The committee discussed the location and potential stories. Bush suggested Coxey's Army is a way to explore the socio-economic history of Oregon. Cannon-Miller expressed interest in the fishponds as an agricultural economy related to class that's not often covered in our inventory.
- G. **Sandy River Bridge:** Dehn presented the location and content of the marker, noting that the Lewis & Clark history is covered at the State Park nearby and Broughton's Expedition is part of the state's inventory on the River Highway marker. Dehn proposed replacing the marker with Columbia River Highway history because of its location. Jalving expressed concern there is a substantial amount of this history interpreted along the highway. She will reach out to Bob Hadlow at ODOT for information. The committee discussed whether this is a high-volume tourist location. Porter asked if this marker might be a candidate for permanent removal if it is redundant. The committee will continue exploring both marker concepts.

Travel Oregon Tribal Tourism Markers: Garcia reported that he, Porter, and Dehn met with the tribal tourism subcommittee to discuss their questions about creating and funding a marker for each of the nine

federally recognized tribes. The two main discussion points were the fact that tribal history predates Oregon history and there was some concern about using the Oregon History header. Simultaneously, the tribes wanted to ensure they could bring some interpretation to the present to show active, thriving populations and not give the impression the tribes only existed in the past. There was also discussion about finding unifying design elements that would connect the nine markers.

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.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Garcia Reported that the two focus areas for the council are hiring a new executive director and recent changes in councilors. Ed Washington and another long-time member recently termed off and replacements are being onboarded.
- B. **Director Report:** Auman added that the agency is also focused on increasing funding for the rest area program, which will be a legislative focus in the next session.
- C. **Advisory Member Report:** None
- D. **New Business:** Dehn reported that the Administrative Rules subcommittee met immediately following the May meeting and created recommendations for changes to the current Historical Marker rules that would align the rules with the current practices of the program. The recommendations were accepted by the Council at their June meeting. Carbone then submitted the proposed changes to the Secretary of State's Office and a public hearing will be held on September 3. Given no changes during that process, the rules will be filed and go into effect in September.

2024 Event and Meeting Schedule

November 5, 2024

February 4, 2025

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2024, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.