



Q1 Oregon Historical Marker Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

1500 Liberty St. SE, STE 150, Salem, OR 97302 – Hybrid Meeting

Attendance

Committee Members Participating: Chair Kelly Cannon-Miller (virtual), Vice-Chair Katie Bush (virtual); Kim Gorman (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Sarah Jalving (virtual); Robert Olguin

Excused: Nancy DeSouza; Bob Garcia

TIC Staff Participating: Jessica Carbone, Beth Dehn

Call to Order/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Cannon-Miller at 1:04 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the November 4, 2025 Minutes

Bush made a motion to accept the November 4, 2025 minutes as presented. Jalving seconded. 7-0 Vote. Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving-yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt- yes; Olguin- yes.

Marker Production/Installation Update

The committee reviewed images of the recently installed Captain Gray and Yaquina Bay markers and discussed the look and functionality of the HDU foam used on the Gray marker. Members shared their impressions of the Oregon Nisei Veterans WWII Memorial Highway marker dedication. A total of five markers (four replacements) were installed in 2025.

Current Marker Projects

- A. Historic Columbia River Highway:** Platt shared a new draft of marker text. The committee asked clarifying questions, modified grammar, and worked on tightening sentences to reduce the text.

Cannon-Miller motioned to accept the text as amended to move forward into production. Platt seconded. *7-0 Vote. Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving– yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt– yes; Olquin- yes.*

- B. Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden Wayside:** Platt & Cannon-Miller will convene offline and change the tone of the current draft.
- C. Boone’s Landing:** Dehn shared the logistics of funding and timelines for this project. Platt noted she was unable to verify much of the current text. Gorman shared her research on land claims and ferry licenses. Platt suggested rewriting the current text to make it more fact-based with verified native crossings. Hedberg volunteered to take a stab at rewriting it and will share revisions with Platt for review. Dehn will confer with Wilsonville to affirm funding and circle back. Jalving noted that the ODOT Boone Bridge Project will eventually receive funding and additional interpretation.
- D. First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Hedberg summarized that the current marker topic is fur trade history, and at the last meeting the committee discussed changing to interpreting the estuary. The subcommittee found the adjacent property has quite a bit of interpretation on the estuary. After reviewing Park’s interpretation at the site, the question now is whether the committee should double dip in the estuary history or continue telling fur trade history. The committee discussed telling a more general story of fur trade history, which Confederated Tribes of Siletz suggested.
- E. Salem Began Here:** No update.
- F. Aurora:** Bush reported that she visited the site and the museum and started doing research. Dehn communicated with the city. Their historic district sign code requires a smaller sign than the standard marker. Dehn will work with the Salemtowne volunteers and the city to find a solution. This may limit text. Bush asked Dehn to verify if the city might want a pedestal marker.

Text Review

James Nesmith: Hedberg recapped the opportunity to bring fact-based context about Nesmith to the site. Platt noted Nesmith was ineffective in congress. Bush noted that the location near the fairgrounds could potentially lead to agricultural history in the area. The committee recognized that the current marker is inadequate and either needs to be rewritten or removed. The group decided to move Nesmith to project status and do greater

investigation. Gorman offered to do research on state legislature records and some fact checking associated with the 1993 draft that was never produced.

Champoeg: Dehn shared images of the marker and explained that this project rose to attention for its physical needs despite only being 12 years old. Similar to the Capt. Gray marker, the marker was refurbished using the original wood and then rotted quickly. Dehn reported that the records on file from 2012 show productive tribal consultation with the Grand Ronde. Dehn reached out to the state park manager at Champoeg who agreed the text is generally good but sent a formal email to his tribal contacts for their input. David Harrelson from CTGR responded that the language still looks good to him. Platt noted that the term “Native wives” is more commonly used than “Indian wives” and suggests removing the final sentence about the first American government on the Pacific Coast. Dehn will monitor for additional feedback from Warm Springs and/or Siletz and touch base with the Parks historian prior to the May meeting.

Old Business

Malheur Country Historical Society confirmed they took responsibility of long-term care of the Charbonneau Marker in Danner. In 2025, a group from Jordan Valley did a site cleanup.

Updates and Reports / New Business

- a. **TIC/ Council Report:** Carbone reported that the Rest Area Program is currently running at a deficit and using reserves as the agency waits to hear about the outcome of the Transportation Package this legislative session. The Sign Program is maintaining business as usual. Carbone noted the Council is looking to fill two council seats.
- b. **New Business:** None

Upcoming Meetings

- a. May 5, 2026: Oregon Historical Society
- b. August 4, 2026
- c. November 3, 2026

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 1 p.m.