



Q2 Oregon Historical Marker Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205— Hybrid Meeting

Attendance

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

Excused: Nancy DeSouza

TIC Staff Participating: Jessica Carbone, Beth Dehn

Call to Order/Introductions:

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The meeting was called to order by Cannon-Miller at 1:01 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the February 3, 2026 Minutes

Jalving made a motion to accept the February 3, 2026 minutes as presented. Bush seconded. *8-0 Vote. Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving– yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt– yes; Olguin- yes; Garcia- yes.*

New Marker Nominations

- A. **Leticia Carson:** Dehn presented the Leticia Carson nomination submitted by Oregon Black Pioneers in conjunction with the Leticia Carson Legacy Project. Carson was one of the first Black women to settle in Oregon. In the 1850s she brought two successful lawsuits against a White defendant over her right to own property. She later became the first Black person, and one of the first women, to file

a land claim in Oregon under the Homestead Act of 1862. The committee discussed location, funding, and recognized the well-established research done to locate the homestead site. The committee emphasized the need for a safe pullout. Platt noted a couple challenging areas to navigate, including the relationship between Leticia and her partner and the supposition that because race wasn't part of the land claim application process, they didn't know they were giving the land to a Black woman.

Bush motioned to accept the Leticia Carson marker. Jalving seconded. *8-0 Vote.*

Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt- yes; Olguin- yes; Garcia- yes.

- B. Neskowin:** Dehn presented the Neskowin nomination for three pedestal markers telling general Neskowin history. Dehn reported that she spoke with the gentleman who submitted the nomination and no criteria were selected as the intention was to tell all aspects of the town's history. Dehn believes proposed location is a State Park Recreation Area and permission must be attained. Funding is not in place. The committee discussed that there is a precedence for markers telling general town history, however the current values of the committee challenge that approach. The committee asked for more details and was unclear if the Ghost Forest is significant as natural history. Platt mentioned the historically very populated estuary is significant. The committee determined the nomination was too broad and they would rather see a more specific topic brought forward.

Hedberg motioned to decline the Neskowin nomination. Jalving seconded. *8-0 Vote.*

Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt- yes; Olguin- yes; Garcia- yes.

Current Marker Projects

- A. Aurora:** Bush reported that the City of Aurora sign code doesn't allow a change in size of the sign. The consensus is to move forward with the minor modification requested by the community that adds the date the colony was established. The committee discussed the unfortunate lack of an explanation of the Golden Rule, a cooperative colony, and the fact the band outlasted the colony by several decades.

Bush motioned to accept the text for the Aurora marker as amended by the community. Platt seconded. *7-0 Vote. Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt- yes; Olguin- yes. Garcia's vote was not clear in*

recording of minutes.

B. Champoege: Dehn relayed the response from the Champoege State Park Manager about the suggested edits the committee discussed in February. Rather than simply removing the final clause of the marker, Dehn presented the park manager's suggestion and two additional options. Platt expressed concern about drawing a straight line between the provisional government and Oregon's adoption into the US. Platt will share a revised version with suggested edits at the next meeting.

C. Railroad Wars at Ogden Wayside: No update.

D. Boone's Landing: No update. Hedberg will take a stab at rewriting the current draft for the next meeting.

E. First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach: Dehn reported the pedestal marker was removed in March. She later met with a State Park interpretive ranger and discussed their interpretive themes for the site. The theme of recreation is a top goal at Ona Beach, and the ranger exhibited some hesitance about telling fur trade history there. Jalving noted that for over three years the committee wrestled with this marker replacement. Confederated Tribes of Siletz was willing, but not enthusiastic in the replacement. The group ultimately agreed they had done due diligence with outreach and research and didn't feel additional effort should be put into this replacement. They also felt good about removing signage knowing there is other interpretation in the park.

Jalving motioned not to replace the First Coastal Explorations marker. Hedberg seconded. 8-0 Vote. *Bush-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Jalving- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Platt- yes; Olguin- yes; Garcia- yes.*

F. Nesmith: No update.

G. Salem Began Here: No update.

Updates and Reports / New Business

a. **TIC/ Council Report:** Carbone reported that TIC received an additional 3M from the legislature, meaning the Rest Area Program is not running at a deficit. This allows rest areas to maintain their current level of service, however there is no additional funding for capital improvements. Staffing for rest areas has been restructured. The Sign Program recently approved a 3% fee increase.

- b. **New Business:** Hedberg shared that the Vanport Cottonwoods will be dedicated as the state's newest heritage trees on May 29th. Dehn requested ideas for potential committee members.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. August 4, 2026
- b. November 3, 2026

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 1 p.m.