

Oregon Historical Marker Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 9, 2007

Present: Richard Hanes (Chair), David Bogan, Clark Newiendorp, Beverly Vogt, Marty Klug, Wayne Sharp
Staff: Annie Von Domitz
Guests: Dick Matthews, Oregon Historical Society

1. Richard Hanes, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

2. Approval of Minutes from 11/3/06

Richard asked for a motion to approve the November 3, 2006 minutes as presented. Beverly moved and David seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

3. Potential Committee Members

Richard reported that the committee is in recruiting mode. Dick Matthews came highly recommended by the Oregon Historical Society. Richard contacted Dr. Robert Keeler, who teaches anthropology at Clackamas Community College. He has served on the Oregon Heritage Commission and various other state organizations. Dr. Keeler is interested in attending at the next committee meeting in May. Elizabeth Potter was also contacted; however, she has too many other commitments at the moment. Annie has also tried to contact John Terry, who was recommended by former committee member, Lewis McArthur. She has not made contact yet, but will keep trying.

4. Council Report

Annie reported that the Council is in the middle of working through the 2007-2008 bi-annual budget. She handed out the annual report for 2006.

5. Interpretive Plan/ OR 150

David reported that the committee will be focusing on identifying two-three markers for 2007. The focus of the markers will be the OR 150 celebration. David handed out a white paper that he would like to send to the OR 150 group. He said that he likes the idea of creating a marker for each of the seven tourism regions, placed in key areas.

Dick Matthews from the Oregon Historical society arrived. He exchanged introductions with the committee.

David will send out a word document for the committee members to review. Members will have one week to respond with comments. He said that people who are interested in sponsoring an OR 150 project can look at the list provided by the commission. The Historical Marker Committee's proposal will place historical markers as an option on that list of OR150 projects. David said that interested sponsors can apply for grants/cultural trust money, etc. The OR150 commission has a grant writer available to help project sponsors find available monies.

Richard said that once we have the topics identified that we would like to pursue, the next step will be to seek partners to develop the markers. The committee discussed the types of topics that should be explored first.

The following topics will be looked into further by committee members:

Cattle grazing – Richard Hanes

Basque community/ culture – Richard Hanes

Mining – Bev Vogt and Clack Niewendorp

Vanport (Keizer may be able to sponsor) – Dick Matthews.

Chinese Labor/ Railroad – topic on hold at this time.

The committee also identified the following two regions that they would like to pursue through the OR 150 commission: One – two signs each, for the Eastern Oregon and Coastal regions that includes multiple topics in keeping with the OR150 focus. These signs would be placed as “bookend” for each region. They could be identical signs that are placed at key entry points for the regions.

6. Restoration/ Replacement Projects

a. Abert Rim

Marty Klug reported that he has identified the correct person in ODOT, who will pay for the site preparation for this marker. ODOT has already stated doing research to identify an appropriate location for the marker. **Marty and Annie will meet with the archeology folks to make sure that everyone is on the same page.**

c. Camp Adair

Annie handed out the first draft of the Camp Adair marker to the committee. The text review committee for this marker will be Dick Matthews and Wayne Sharp. **Annie will send the comments she receives from committee members back to Sea Reach, so that they can continue the process.**

7 New Marker Projects

a. Meek Marker

Annie reported that the Meek family would like to look into having a rededication ceremony for the Meek Marker. The family would like to coordinate the ceremony in conjunction with their family reunion. The committee was fine with this idea and authorized Annie to help them with this process. Annie also reported that ODOT redesigned the pull out area where the marker is located. There is a walkway to the top of a small hill that overlooks the original Meek homestead. There is space for a small pedestal style marker at the top of the walkway. The committee said they would be interested in developing a marker for the space, but a sponsor would need to be found. **Annie will contact the Meek family to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the sign.**

b. Westport

The committee reviewed the pre-application for the John West/ Westport marker. The committee concluded that the topic is eligible under the program guidelines. **Annie will contact the sponsor to begin the formal application process.** She will also review the sponsorship obligations with the sponsor.

8. Committee Reports/ New Business

a. Salemetowne Volunteers

Wayne reported that the Salemtowne volunteers have recently restored 3 signs: “41st Division” and the “Tillamook Burn”, both in the Sunset Springs rest area, and “Tillamook Burn” on Hwy 6. Wayne said that the volunteers are planning a 3 day trip this spring to visit several markers on the southern coast.

The committee discussed plans for a volunteer appreciation event this spring.

b. New Committee Member Vote:

David made a motion to accept Dick Matthews’ membership to the committee. Wayne seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

9. 2007 Meeting Schedule

The next meeting in May has been rescheduled to Friday, May 11, because of a conflict with the heritage conference in Pendleton. The committee discussed the idea of holding the committee meeting in Pendleton at the conference, but decided against this idea because several members would be unable to attend. The committee discussed having one meeting per year in Portland. The committee will discuss this idea further at the next meeting in May. Currently the meetings on May 11, August 3, and November 2 are scheduled to be held in the large conference room at the ODOT Materials Lab building, 800 Airport Road SE (behind the State Motor Pool facilities) in Salem.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50pm