

Minutes of Interim Committee Meeting

Oregon Geographic Names Board

October 29, 2019

Oregon Historical Society, Hatfield Room

Interim Committee Chair Champ Vaughan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The following members of the Interim Committee were in attendance: **Board Members** Bruce Fisher (President), Champ Vaughan (Vice-President & Interim Committee Chair), Mary McArthur, Sharon Nesbit, and John Terry; and **Advisors** Maxine Kline (Forest Service), Jesse Nett (Forest Service), Frank Lahm (BLM), and Doug Decker (private sector). Also present was board member Mary Oberst and guests Danna Snell Harnish and Jim Harnish. The Chair welcomed new board member Mary Oberst and all attendees introduced themselves.

Recent USBGN decisions for Oregon: President Fisher announced that the ten creek names in the vicinity of Marys Peak, 16 butte names within the Newberry Volcano, and Springfield Butte were approved by the USBGN.

Governor Snell Ridge, Lake County (proposed new name for unnamed feature): Representatives of the Governor Snell family (Danna Snell Harnish and Jim Harnish) spoke in support of the proposed name and provided background information about Governor Snell and the aircraft crash site. The proponent, Ted Curphey, was not present but has amended his proposal from “Governor Ridge” to “Governor Snell Ridge.” The Committee voted unanimously to refer the proposal to the full board with a recommendation of approval pending responses from the tribes and Lake County government.

Sohmer Creek, Baker County (proposed new name for unnamed feature): The Committee agreed unanimously to defer further action until the interim committee scheduled for May 12, 2020.

Marjorie Falls, Jackson County and **Hole-in-the-Rock**, Jackson County (proposed new names for unnamed features): The Committee agreed unanimously to defer further action on the proposals pending receipt of additional information from proponents.

Newberry Volcano, Deschutes and Lake Counties (proposed 26 new names for unnamed features within the Newberry Volcano National Monument): All proposed names are in Native American languages and have been reviewed and approved by the Klamath Tribes. The Committee voted unanimously to refer all 26 proposed names to the full board for a batch vote by e-mail with a recommendation of approval. This will ensure that the 26 name proposals are on the docket for the USBGN board meeting at the Portland COGNA conference. All of the proposals are in Deschutes County, except for three in Lake County so noted.

Ada Butte	Kayuc Draw
Atsa Cone	Kide Butte
Balbali Butte	Lalish Draw
Bosbosli Butte	Nota Butte
Dukdukqwasam Butte	Puku Butte
Galo Butte	Qdai Dome
Gekgekli Butte	Sabas Butte
Gogaka Draw	Saiga Hill
Goge Draw	Skohsam Hill (Lake County)
Hokisam Cones (Lake County)	Taba Butte (Lake County)
Huna Butte	Taktakli Butte
Huudi Draw	Wacam Draw
Issa Draw	Wasam Butte

GNIS ID 1146832 Negro Ben Mountain/Ben Johnson Mountain, Jackson County (proposed name change)

GNIS ID 1140701 Dean Indian Creek/Latgawa Creek, Jackson County (proposed name change)

GNIS ID 1140703 Dead Indian Soda Springs/Latgawa Soda Springs, Jackson County (proposed name change)

GNIS ID 1154277 Dead Indian Mountain/Latgawa Mountain, Jackson County (proposed name change)

The Committee agreed to request a formal response from the Oregon Black Pioneers organization regarding Negro Ben Mountain and to defer further action on these four proposals pending publication of a local press release and receipt of additional information from the proponents.

GISH Project: President Fisher discussed the “Greatest International Scavenger Hunt” charity organization and the hundreds of proposals the USBGN has received to change the geographic names that may be considered derogatory by citizens. This has resulted in a major workload for the USBGN to open files for each proposal received. About a half dozen proposals have been received so far for features in Oregon.

South Harney Lake Hot Spring, Harney County (proposed new name for unnamed feature): The committee unanimously agreed to defer further action on the proposal pending receipt of comments from the Burns Paiute Tribe regarding a potential competing name proposal in the Paiute language.

Westview Island, Bridgebend Island, and Honk Island, Lane County (three competing proposed new names for one unnamed feature): The land owner, Division of State Lands, and Lane County government do not favor any of the proposed names. The Committee agreed unanimously to refer the competing proposals to the full board without a recommendation.

Announcements: President Fisher announced that the next Interim Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020 (tentative). The summer OGNB board meeting will be held at the Oregon Historical Society on Friday, June 26, 2020, during the COGNA conference. The COGNA conference runs from June 23 to June 27 with a toponymic bus tour planned for the Columbia River Gorge on June 27.

The committee meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Champ Vaughan, Interim Committee Chair

NOTE: Immediately following the Interim Committee meeting, President Fisher met with members of the COGNA conference planning committee and discussed the conference venue and schedule and volunteer duties. He also met with Ally Huffman of the OHS staff regarding food and beverage requirements and projected income and expenses for the conference. Another planning meeting will be held at the Oregon Historical Society in late January 2020. More details later.