

January 28, 2022

Dear Wakasa Memorial Committee:

We were disappointed that the virtual meeting scheduled for January 27 did not occur because of your request to meet after the NPS report has been issued. We had hoped to foster a constructive relationship with you as we plan for the future of the Wakasa Monument and the April 2023 ceremony.

It seems we may have misunderstood the intentions of the WMC and its advisory council to work with the Topaz Museum Board on these issues. We were surprised to learn via an emailed January 25, 2022 letter from the Wakasa Memorial Advisory Council that there have been discussions and plans underway for the April 2023 Wakasa ceremony at the Topaz site without including representatives of the Topaz Museum, legal stewards of the Topaz site.

This is unfortunate as we have worked hard to include your input into future plans regarding the Wakasa Monument as well as outreaching to community leaders to expand the flow of feedback and ideas. We welcomed WMC representatives to the Topaz Museum last year on November 31 and December 1.

When WMC representatives heavily criticized the Museum during speeches on site and in subsequent media interviews, we refrained from criticism or negativity. It is upsetting to learn that our efforts to build and foster trust and goodwill are for naught and your plan all along was to move forward without including the Topaz Museum. Please feel free to assuage our concerns.

In our continued attempt to work with you, per your request, after the NPS report has been issued, we will reach out to you to reschedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Topaz Museum Board of Directors

Jane Beckwith, President

Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Kiley Chase, Lorelei Draper, Sherrie Hayashi, Ned Isokawa, Mark Nelson, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, Teresa Thompson, Patricia Wakida

cc:

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6, 7, 8, NPS

Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program, NPS

Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS

Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Michelle Magalong, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

Jennifer Ortiz, Director, Utah Division of State History
Chris Merritt, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JACL
David Inoue, Executive Director, JACL
Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District