

April 8, 2022

Dear Wakasa Memorial Committee:

We have received your letter of April 4 suggesting future meeting dates.

In our written communications with the WMC, we have repeatedly apologized for mistakes that were made, and expressed our desire to work with the WMC to develop plans to preserve and memorialize the monument and the memory of Mr. Wakasa.

To that end, we met virtually on February 15--three representatives from the Wakasa Memorial Committee and three members representing the Topaz Museum Board. We were heartened by the civil discourse and the mutual expressions of good faith, and we were looking forward to the start of a positive collaboration between the two parties.

After that meeting, we were prepared to move forward with the WMC, working together toward issuing a joint statement, and scheduling our next meeting.

However, just two days later on February 17, we were shocked watching the WMC live virtual presentation. During the panel discussion of that program, actions of the Topaz Museum Board were described as "cruel and cowardly." A panelist commented in effect that "I hope the Museum apologizes" when it in fact has done so repeatedly. And the museum's concern about vandalism at the Topaz site was dismissed and ridiculed as a "blatant falsehood."

The February 17 WMC presentation and video of it that remains on the WMC website caused us to reassess. Comments from individuals connected with the WMC continue to slam the Museum despite our efforts to try to work with you. What we thought was the start of a cooperative relationship turned into another bashing session aimed at the Topaz Museum and its board members. We have not received any assurances that misinformation, disparaging remarks, and the bullying will stop, either from individual members of your leadership or in communications presented on the WMC website and related social media.

During the past nine months, the Topaz Museum Board has repeatedly and publicly apologized and expressed its desire to collaborate with the WMC in atonement, and in respect for the WMC. We have not received the same respect from the Wakasa Memorial Committee. We cannot continue to meet with a committee that professes to want to work cooperatively on the one hand, and then vilifies the Museum and spews vitriol on the other.

In the meantime, we will continue to plan how to implement the National Park Service's recommendations with advice and feedback from the greater Japanese American community. And as we reach out to solicit input from the broader community, Topaz descendants, and our

stakeholders, of course we want members of the WMC to also offer suggestions regarding the preservation of, and future plans for the Wakasa Monument, including a memorial ceremony next year to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Mr. Wakasa's killing.

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

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Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JAACL

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Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District