

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oregon Travel Information Council, Salem, Oregon
Friday, January 21, 2011
1:30 pm

Committee Participants:

Nancy Appling	Jennifer Karps	Arne Nyberg
George Forbes	Craig Leech	Paul Ries
Doug Grafe	Molly McKnight	Tim Nitz

Absent:

Maynard Drawson	Charlotte Lehan	Pat Moran
Mike Fontenot	Peter McDonald	Al Tocchini

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Tracie Gibson	Madeline MacGregor
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Tim Nitz convened the meeting at 1:34 pm.

Approval of October 2, 2010 Minutes

Jennifer Karp moved to approve the minutes with the correction of the spelling of "Tub Springs" to be made, Craig Leech seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Statewide Heritage Tree Dedications

Tim Nitz turned the floor over to Annie von Domitz to discuss the 2011 Heritage Tree Dedication Ceremony. Annie reported that the Heritage Conference will be held in Astoria, Oregon during Arbor Week, April 3rd – 9th. It is suggested that the tree dedication ceremony take place the weekend of Arbor Day Saturday April 30, 2011, with a committee meeting following the dedication. First choice for the dedication is Harry & David's. Annie will contact Harry & David's to see if they are interested in having the ceremony there, making necessary travel arrangements. The dedication is to include recognition of the Camp Oregon Caves Port Orford Cedar and the Harry & David Pear Grove. Nancy motioned to approve, pending on okay from Harry & David's to host the dedication. Doug Grafe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TIC Heritage Website

A. Upgrades

Madeline MacGregor, TIC's new Creative Strategist, described to the committee the upgrades she has been working on for the Heritage Tree Program. She stated that she is using and updating twitter, face book, quarterly newsletters- both internal and external, and drafting stories about the program/trees that will be presented to legislation throughout this session, all to raise awareness.

B. Content

Madeline went over the existing website and what is already there, she requested that the committee members share what they would like to see implemented on the website in the future. Topics that were discussed were: a Google map with all tree locations, buttons/visuals, online picture gallery of heritage trees--possibly by species or themed, tag lines—"living legacy" or "The trees that tie us to our historical roots."

Tim Nitz suggested a possible forum that would support other tree groups/enthusiasts such as the "American Grove", and to place links to other websites.

Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Tub Springs Sugar Pine

Tim Nitz requested a motion to bring the Tub Springs Sugar Pine back to the table. Arne Nyberg motioned that the tree be brought back to the table, Jennifer Karps seconded the motion.

Craig Leech said that at this time he unfortunately cannot recommend the acceptance of this nomination. He relayed that there was hesitation from the park manager despite the letter of recommendation that was submitted with the application. There is concern regarding the need to cross a busy highway with no designated pedestrian crossing, and the lack of a trail directly to the tree.

The committee continued to discuss whether this should be a tree nomination or a grove nomination that would include the Sugar Pines near the springs. Arne suggested that it may be more appropriate to select the tree that is near the tub for the dedication if this is nominated as a grove. He suggested that any decision be held until further research can be done.

Tim would like to see more information that states the historical significance of the Sugar Pine Tree relating to the military road, Applegate Trail, Tub Springs and the community tree purchase, and it was suggested that the committee make a site visit in April rather than have a committee meeting. Nancy offered to do more search on the site ahead of the April meeting.

Nancy Appling moved to table the Tub Springs nomination until further research and a site visit can be done and reviewed by the committee members. Arne Nyberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Simpson Park Trees

George Forbes motioned to open the discussion on the Simpson Park Trees. Arne Nyberg seconded the motion.

Craig Leech reported his findings on a site visit of the park he made two weeks ago. The meeting took place with the park supervisor and a member of the volunteer Historical Society representing the nominator. He relayed what the Heritage Tree Program is about, and looked for examples of how this 600 acre park would/would not fit the program. His initial impression was that this was an arboretum planted by the community. There was not one tree that tied directly to the Simpson family, and that the area had been heavily impacted by city renovations. He felt it was difficult to tie the trees to the story.

George Forbes questioned whether the trees were planted during the time the Simpsons lived there, Craig stated that the majority of the trees were planted after. There is a grove of Redwoods that the mayor had planted, but there are no records of who planted the other trees. Paul Ries commented that he feels that this park is eclectic and was planted over several years. Arne suggested that this may be better suited for a local heritage tree committee. Paul believes that we could work with city management to possibly accomplish this. Annie is to contact Kristen Ramstead from Paul's office. Kristen is the Community Assistance Forester and can help create a plan for the park.

Tim Nitz called for a vote to approve the Simpson Park Trees. The vote was opposed unanimously. The motion to approve failed.

Updates and Reports

Reports from Members

Arne Nyberg met with Trevor from NW Trees to gain a bid for maintaining the Nyberg tree. The quote came in at \$2200, and he asked for input as to whether the quote was acceptable or high. Arne states that the Nyberg family will make a donation back to the program in turn (\$2500). Doug Grafe states that there is no "right" answer. The quote will be based on what the professional feels will need to be done (example: trimming, tabling, and bracing). Doug recommended that an additional two bids be obtained and presented at the next meeting. Arne should contact Blake Thomas to get one of the quotes.

Molly McKnight shared that Charlotte Lehan had been in the hospital, but is recovering now at home. Molly said she will follow back-up with her contact, Sandy, to see if she is still interested in being a committee member for the Central Oregon Region.

Annie informed the committee that the Ewing Young Day is on February 9th. Cookie and Doug Root, who own the property where the Ewing Young Tree is located, usually do something at the Ewing Young Tree site to commemorate the anniversary. Annie asked if any committee members would be interested in participating in a Heritage Tree presentation for the local elementary school. The students at Ewing Young Elementary School in Newberg usually commemorate the day with activities or presentations. Annie will forward details about a possible presentation, if that idea works out.

TIC Report

George Forbes discussed how the launch of the new TIC branding has been pushed back to February. He also reported that five rest areas have been under TIC management for one year now, and that tremendous things have taken place at Baldock Rest Area with collaboration between multiple agencies. The next council meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2011 in Salem.

Maynard Drawson Update

It was discussed that the committee possibly go to Maynard's facility for the July meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Heritage Tree meeting has been scheduled for Saturday April 30, 2011. This will coincide with the 2011 Heritage Tree Dedication Ceremony. There will also be a site visit to the Tub Springs Sugar Pine location during April, 2011.

Adjournment

Tim Nitz adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.