

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Coos Bay Visitors Center, Coos Bay, OR
Saturday, June 29, 2013
11:00 am

Committee Participants:

Nancy Appling	Roger Brandt
George Forbes	Craig Leech
Charlotte Lehan	Arne Nyberg
Al Tocchini	Ed Washington

Absent:

Doug Grafe	Jennifer Karps
Molly McKnight	Tim Nitz
Paul Ries	

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Jenn Smith
Madeline MacGregor	

Craig Leech, Chair, convened the meeting at 11:05am

1. **Self-introductions were made.**
2. **Approval of May 10, 2013 Minutes:** The committee noted three corrections to the minutes. Arne made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections. Charlotte 2nd; motion passed unanimously.
3. **Committee Elections:**
 - a. **Renewal of Terms:** Arne made a motion to renew Molly McKnight's term on the committee. Ed 2nd; motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Open Seats:** Al mentioned he has an idea for the Historical Society position-a professor from Corban University. Annie mentioned she would also ask Eliza Canty-Jones for ideas for that position. Paul mentioned at a previous meeting he was going to research a person for the Central Oregon representative.
 - c. **Election of Chair & Vice Chair:** George made a motion to elect Al as Chair of the committee. Nancy 2nd; motion passed unanimously. Nancy nominated Roger to be Vice Chair. Arne 2nd; motion passed unanimously.
4. **Heritage Tree nominations:** Craig told the committee that there currently are not any tree nominations and it would be good to get some going. Al reviewed the potential of the tree in Maxville and perhaps the information and approval could take place in time to do the dedication in coordination with their yearly celebration. Charlotte mentioned she had been working on one and would have it ready for the next meeting. Annie suggested it would be great to have the Myrtlewood tree near Gold Beach be part of the program. Nancy volunteered to stop and visit and see what might work.
5. **Upcoming Heritage Tree Dedications:**
 - a. **Orengo Elms:** The dedication will take place on September 28th at 10:00 am. Annie has been working with Bonnie Kookan and the Orengo neighborhood. They would like it to coordinate

with their annual Orenco Heritage Day Festival. George volunteered to go to the neighborhood to determine the best place to put the plaque.

6. Maynard Drawson Memorial:

- a. **Tree Planting:** The planting is scheduled for Arbor week in 2014 (first week of April). However, a white oak is still needed. The plan is to plant a white oak on the Oregon Department of Forestry grounds. Paul mentioned, in a previous meeting, that he was going to research a company that rescues the trees and Molly said she may have a resource as well. Craig suggested that we plant a smaller tree next to the larger planting in case the large one fails.
- b. **Award:** Annie said the sub-committee, which includes Al and Paul, is still in the process of refining the nomination form.

7. Old business

- a. **Barlow Road Tollgate Maple wood:** Arne told the committee that he and Doug took a trailer out to Peter's place and picked up the wood. Doug's friend planed it and it will be ready for the meeting and wood carving at the coast in October. Doug said he would like to build a bench for Peter's family with some of the wood.
- b. **Memorial for Heritage Trees:** Annie announced there will be a separate section of the OTE website honoring the trees that had to be taken down that were part of the program. Additionally, the OTE intern has developed a survey in the form of a postcard that will be sent out to the "keepers" of the trees requesting the health and pictures of the tree. Craig asked if a formal process had been developed to deal with tree care. The committee decided in a previous meeting to take each tree in a case-by-case basis.
- c. **Geer Crest Farm – Riding Whip Tree:** The owners of the tree have been contacted and told of the approved grant for the maintenance of the tree. They are happy and are planning to sell cuttings and pictures of the tree to raise funds for their portion of the cost.
- d. **Peter McDonald memorial:** Arne suggested planning cyprus trees in honor of him; Doug would like to build a bench; Peter has also been honored on the website and in the yearly publication.

8. Updates & Reports/New Business

- a. **OTE/Council Report:** Charlotte told the committee that Kyle Walker, OTE's new CEO, recently had her 6 month review and is doing well. The council is currently working on strategic planning and has approved the biennial budget. She announced that the Baldock Rest Area will be changing its name to French Prairie to reflect the history of the area.

Madeline reported the new process for OTE's Travel Information Centers in rest areas and is hoping to have a pilot project at the French Prairie (formerly Baldock) rest area and Woodburn Company Store locations.

Annie informed the committee that Brad Hamel, the OSU graduate student that had been studying the Grove of the States at the French Prairie rest area, had submitted his final report. He laid out three options for the Grove: 1) do nothing, 2) remove the whole grove or 3) rehabilitate in the current location. The general consensus is to rehabilitate. The grove will turn 50 years old in 2017 and would then be a good candidate for an Oregon Heritage Tree nomination.

- b. **Reports from Members:** Arne reported that the City of Tualatin took over the sign that marks the Nyberg Chestnut tree and are moving it closer to the tree. However it isn't up yet. Annie noted that the OTE sign crew has been working with the city and she will double check the status.

George reported the Historical Marker Committee is quite busy. The dedication of the Hollering Place markers will celebrate the completion of the highly successful project. In addition, the marker committee has a dedication in Dayton on July 18th and at least four more markers in the works.

9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on October 18th in Lincoln City in conjunction with the weekend of woodworking. All agreed the January 2014 meeting should be held in Salem at the OTE office.
10. **Adjourn:** Leech adjourned the meeting at 12:41 pm.