

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
OTE Office, Salem, OR
Friday, October 17, 2014
1:30 pm

Committee Participants:

Roger Brandt
Doug Grafe
Arne Nyberg
Ed Washington

Nancy Appling
Craig Leech
Al Tocchini
Molly McKnight

Absent:

Jennifer Karps
Tim Nitz
George Forbes

Charlotte Lehan
Paul Ries

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

Guests:

Abby Driscoll, ODF

Jarrett Caston, ODF

Roger Brandt, Chair, convened the meeting at 1:30pm

1. **Self-introductions were made.**
2. **Approval of July 18, 2014 Minutes:** Arne made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ed seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.
3. **Committee Elections:**
 - a. **Vice Chair:** Nancy Appling agreed to the nomination for vice-chair, as proposed by the committee at the July meeting. Al moved to accept Nancy's nomination for vice-chair. Molly seconded the nomination. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. **Heritage Tree Nominations:**
 - a. **Coquille Myrtle Grove:** Nancy explained the connection between the Coquille Myrtle Grove and the Garden Club. The Garden Club was very influential in many initiatives such as the Oregon Bottle Bill, "Don't Be a Litterbug!" campaign and the roadside wildflower program. The Garden Club singled out this grove for protection. It is now a state park. Nancy was able to convince the park manager to repair and replace the damaged picnic tables at the park. She said it is the best example of the four groves in the area that are protected areas. Roger said that the conservation piece was the most important part of the story of this grove.

Doug moved to accept the nomination of the Coquille Myrtle Grove into the program. Arne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Agnes Sawyer Maple:** Arne moved to accept the nomination of the Anges Sawyer Maple into the heritage tree program. Nancy seconded the motion.

In discussion following the motion, Roger explained that the maple tree has an interesting history tied to the original owner's local involvement in the Civil War. However, there is a large, crumbling tree house surrounding the tree. The tree also appears to be in questionable health. Roger said that the tree was planted in oak woodland and other people in the community took seedlings and spread them throughout the area. There is now a maple corridor. Nancy said that this tree was nominated for the program eight years ago and was rejected due to the declining health of the tree.

Roger called for a vote on the motion; the motion did not pass with seven votes against, and Ed abstaining.

5. Old Business:

- a. **Barlow Road Tollgate Maple wood/ Peter McDonald Memorial Bench:** Arne said that he would talk to Peter's family about what they would like the plaque on the memorial bench to say. Doug made a motion to approve the use of the Heritage Tree Fund to purchase a plaque for the Peter McDonald Memorial Bench. Arne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Several committee members are interested in using some of the salvaged wood from the Barlow Road Tollgate Maple for personal projects. Annie said that she would check with OTE's Policy Advisor to make sure the committee members aren't in danger of violating any ethics rules. The committee members pointed out that the wood is salvaged and other members of the community at-large were also able to access the wood. Annie was not sure if that fact would make a difference, but she said she would look into the rules and get back to the committee.

- b. **Maynard Drawson Award:** Annie gave copies of the Maynard Drawson Award nomination form to the committee members for review. They made some minor edits to the form and asked Annie to move forward with announcing the new award.

Annie will forward a copy of the updated form to the committee members. The deadline for submitting nominees is January 30, 2015.

6. Updates & Reports/New Business:

- a. **OTE/Council Report:** Ed reported that the Council has been dealing with the normal activities of the Council, with nothing new to report. He said his job to update the council about the Heritage Tree Committee activities is always interesting. He commended the committee and the staff for their continued excellent work on the Heritage Tree Program.
- b. **Handley Farm Willow:** Nancy reported the Handley Farm Willow's main trunk was removed due to decay, as is normal for willows. She said there is a 20 foot sprout remaining. The committee did not think the tree needed to be removed from the program. Nancy and Annie will work on updating the audio tour content at this site, to educate the public about the status of the willow. Arne asked Nancy to talk to the museum about putting up a small education sign next to the heritage tree plaque. Annie will update the website.
- c. **Reports from Committee Members:**
Molly reported the Clackamas County Heritage Tree Program has not been made a priority lately. Molly is going to approach Clackamas County Tourism to see if they would be willing to adopt the program.

Molly is also planning to talk to the Horticulture Department at Clackamas Community College to follow up on possible heritage tree nominations for some Luelling fruit trees. She will check on the status of the Lockheart Grove Heritage tree site to see if the wild fire near Estacada did any damage.

Craig Leech reported that the Capitol Building is receiving seismic retrofitting, which will cause a major disturbance to the landscape surrounding the building over the next few years. The historic Camperdown elms near the building are being moved. If they survive the move, Craig said they would be strong candidates for Oregon Heritage Tree status.

Craig suggested the committee take a closer look at the Heritage Tree Survey that was completed a year ago. He said the committee members should take time to reach out personally to the tree owners over the next year. Annie will compile all of the information gathered and distribute it to the members.

Jarrett Caston informed the committee about the status of the geo-caching tour he has been working to develop with Paul Ries. Jarrett said they have identified eight tree locations for the tour, which will end at the Tillamook Forest Center. Once participants collect all eight of the locations, they will be awarded with a wooden token. The token will include the Oregon Heritage Tree Program logo. The committee asked to be kept informed of the status of the project and were interested in helping it move forward.

Al and Paul have been working on the Grove of the States project at the southbound French Prairie Rest Area. Al updated the committee on the progress. Annie said that the project is part of OTE's strategic plan and is scheduled to be complete prior to the 50th anniversary of the grove in August 2017.

Roger reported the Forest Service will not do anything with the Camp Oregon Caves Port Orford cedar snag this year, at the request of the committee. Roger would like the committee to consider planting a new tree in its place; one that is rot resistant. Roger will research this possibility and report back to the committee.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be January 23, 2015 at the OTE office in Salem. The committee will decide on the location for the Statewide Heritage Tree dedication at the January meeting
8. **Adjourn:** Roger adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.