

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 13, 2018
11:00 am
Chintimini Senior Center Conference Room
2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330

Committee Participants:

Kristin Ramstad, Vice-Chair	Jennifer Karps	Arne Nyberg
Samantha Wolf	Craig Leech	Nate Pedersen
Ed Washington	Al Tocchini	

Absent:

Roger Brandt , Nancy Appling-Salucci, Molly McKnight , Charlotte Lehan

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz, Jessica Carbone, Jim Denno

Convening: Chair Karps called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Self-introductions were made to note attendance for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: Nyberg moved to accept the minutes as presented. Leech seconded the motion. The motion passed. Karps abstained.

Pedersen officially announced to the committee since he is moving to Boise, ID he will be leaving the committee. The committee wishes him the best in his new position.

Committee Elections: Nyberg made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Aye: 7; Nay: 0; Abstain:1

Officer Nomination :

Chair- Jennifer Karps

Vice-Chair- Kristin Ramstad

Committee Positions:

Jennifer Karps – City Representative

Arne Nyberg- N. Oregon/Portland Representative

Al Tocchini – N. Coast/ Willamette Valley

Samantha Wolf – County Representative

The committee has five open positions: Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Transportation, Historical Society, Tourism. They discussed possible recruitments for the Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon and Historical Society positions.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

McMinnville Sequoia: The Giant Sequoia is located in downtown McMinnville and has served as the town's Christmas tree since the 1950s. The seedling was planted by Walter Scott Link in the fall of 1912 next to the City's original library which was built using a Carnegie Grant. Walter Link was the son of early non-native

settlers. He grew up in Yamhill county later running a sheep farm and becoming Vice-President of the First National Bank.

After a discussion, Nyberg made a motion to table the nomination until further research could be done to strengthen the tree's historical connection to the library and the 31 Carnegie Libraries built in Oregon. Leech second the motion. The motion was passed. Von Domitz will follow up with Pedersen for further information.

Cy Bingham Tree at Odell Lake: Pedersen presented his nomination for the Cy Bingham tree at Odell Lake. Cy Bingham was the first forest ranger in the Deschutes area. He was hired in 1903 to oversee the Cascade Range Forest Reserve. While performing his varied duties on the backcountry (fire lookout/fire fighter/search & rescue/trail blazer/etc.) he would carve his name into trees located at his campsites. The Odell campsite was his favorite. The nominated tree is located at Odell Lake Pebble Bay campsite, which can be reached by boat or a one mile hike. Karpis said this was an important story to tell, given how much of the state is forest and public land and how much that land has influenced Oregon history and culture.

Nyberg made a motion to table the nomination until a letter of support from the Forest Service's Ranger-in-charge of the Crescent District is received. The motion was passed.

The committee took a break for lunch at 11:53 a.m.

The committee returned at 12:41 p.m.

Maynard Dawson Award: Von Domitz informed the committee that she has changed the nomination deadline to the third Friday in January, so that the application would be perennial. She encouraged the committee to send out the application to their networks and think about nominations for 2019.

Old Business:

Suttle Lake Apple Tree: Pedersen asked if there was any further information from ODOT about the apple tree. Von Domitz said that she has reached out to ODOT but has not heard anything back. Because of the unsafe conditions to reach the apple tree, (very limited places to pull off the road, having to jump over a road barrier, on a steep slope) and the potential liability, she does not feel that ODOT would support the nomination. There is also a lack of a clear history. Tocchini suggested reaching out to ODOT if they are working the nomination. If she still doesn't hear anything from them by the next meeting the nomination will be dropped.

Reports from Members:

Witness Tree: Leech asked if von Domitz had been in contact with the new owners of the Witness Tree. Von Domitz said she had not and asked Leech for any new contact information he may have.

Hines Walnut Wood: Leech asked if any of the wood had been received from ODOT. Von Domitz confirmed that the sign crew picked up three large logs and they are now drying in storage at the Department of Corrections.

GOTS Potted Tree Update: Ramstad said the pines are doing great. The Texas Pecan, which was believed to have died, is making a comeback.

Updates & Reports/New Business:

- a) **OTE/ Council Report:** Washington, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Wolf to the committee and thanked Pedersen for all his work while on the committee. Gwenn Baldwin has reached the end of her term on the Council but will remain on the Historical Marker Committee. The agency continues to work on improvement projects in the rest areas around the state.

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 12 – The GeerCrest Dedication – Salem

- October 19 – OTE Offices in Salem
- January 11 – TBA
- April 5 – Statewide Dedication

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.