

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting, Friday, October 16, 2020

Committee Participants: Chair Kristin Ramstad, Vice-Chair Samantha Wolf, Craig Leech, Charlotte Lehan, Molly McKnight, Arne Nyberg, Nate Pedersen, Al Tocchini, Ed Washington, David Hedberg, Jennifer Karps

Excused: Nancy Appling-Salucci

Staff Participants: Annie von Domitz; Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/ Introductions: Ramstad called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of the Minutes: Pedersen proposed removing the possessive s from his last name in the list of committee participants. *Nyberg made a motion to approve the August 7, 2020 minutes as corrected. McKnight seconded the motion. Karps and Hedberg abstained. The motion carried.*

New Member Nomination: Leech spoke about Scott Brown who recently applied to the committee. He would represent central Oregon. The committee discussed his varied work experience. Brown has always had a passion for natural resources and saw this is as another way to branch out.

Nyberg made a motion to invite Scott Brown to become a Heritage Tree Committee member. McKnight seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Maynard Drawson/Heritage Tree Hero Award: Wolf reported on the work the subcommittee did to create an award that could reach more people. The Maynard Drawson Award will remain a lifetime achievement award. After that last meeting, the suggestions purposed to the nomination form were implemented. Up to four Heritage Tree Hero awards can be awarded per year. The committee looked at the final draft of the Heritage Tree Hero award. The latest changes were approved. Wolf asked the committee to think about any ideas they had to promote the award and the best way to present the award to the winners. Due to the unusual circumstances of this year, the application deadline has been extended to April instead of the third Friday of January for this first year.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- a. **Smith Farm Walnut:** Ramstad told the committee about her visit to the walnut tree and its owners, near Coos Bay. There are official Sesquicentennial Farm signs clearly showing the ranch is 150 years old. She showed a photo of the milk and cheese factory, along with the stand located at this spot. The tree does have some damage to it, which is not unusual due to its age. There was a significant branch failure that took place about 25 years ago but overall, the tree seems healthy. This tree is the last of a grove of black walnuts that marked this point in the river as the last point a boat could travel to drop off materials. The committee discussed the trees' possible connection to state history. The tree could represent a by-gone area when travel by river was easier than unpaved roads and the trees

were used for navigation. Hedberg suggested reaching out to Coos County Historical Society for more information.

Nyberg made a motion to table the Smith Farm Walnut until more information can be found from the Coos County Historical Society. Pedersen seconded. The motion carried.

- b. Sheridan Tree:** Pedersen presented a nomination for a tree connected to Philip W. Sheridan. The tree is located near Sisters, OR. Sheridan was part of the Williamson-Abbot survey of 1855. They were a team looking for a railway route to connect Fort Reading- near Redding, CA - with Portland, OR. When the group camped at this location while another party member went for supplies, Sheridan carved his name and the date into the tree. Sheridan gained fame for his achievements during the Civil War. The committee discussed the tree's location and health. They also discussed Sheridan's complex history during his time in Oregon before the civil war. The committee decided to reach out for input from various tribes. Hedberg suggested shifting the focus of the tree's nomination from Sheridan to railway survey parties.

Lehan made a motion to table the nomination until feedback was received from the tribes. Tocchini seconded. Pedersen abstained. The motion carried.

Public comment regarding Giant Spruce plaque: Von Domitz presented an email sent by a community member that brought into question the wording of some of our past tree plaques. The committee discussed the community member's comments. Karpis recommended a text review. Von Domitz will compile a complete list of all plaque text and place them on a google drive for the committee to review and comment on. One consideration is that once the plaques are presented, the plaque no longer belongs to the committee. They become the property of the tree owner. It is estimated that each plaque would cost about \$300 to replace.

Due to a time constraint, the committee chose to adjourn the meeting at this point and cover the remaining agenda items at a to-be-determined meeting in November.

2020/2021 Meeting Schedule

November 20, 2020 – Zoom

January 15, 2021 – TBD

April 2021- TBD

July 9, 2021- TBD

Adjourn at 3:05 p.m.