

# Oregon Heritage Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting, January 14, 2022

**Committee Participants:** Chair Kristin Ramstad; Vice-Chair Samantha Wolf; Nancy Appling-Salucci; Scott Brown; David Hedberg; Jennifer Karp; Charlotte Lehan; Molly McKnight; Arne Nyberg; Nate Pedersen; Al Tocchini; Ed Washington

**Excused:** Craig Leech

**Staff Participants:** Jessica Carbone

**Guests:** Annie von Domitz

---

**Introductions:** Ramstad called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

**Approval of the October 15, 2021 Minutes:** *Nyberg made a motion to approve the October 15, 2021 minutes as submitted. Appling seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

## Heritage Tree Nominations:

- a. **Cathedral Tree:** Carbone introduced a nomination of the Elk Island Cathedral Tree. The tree was discovered by Richard Weber in 2014 during his and Bernard Woodard's clean-up efforts of what is known as Elk Island. Mr. Weber found the tree growing out of a crack in the bedrock of the river relaxing and spiritual. The committee discussed the information provided in the nomination and did not see the tree meeting any of the four required nomination criteria. Carbone will let the nominator know that as submitted, the tree does not meet nomination criteria but is welcome to resubmit if more information connecting the tree to any of the four required nomination criteria is obtained.
  
- b. **PSU Copper Beech:** Carbone shared the plans for the Copper Beech plaque sent by Liz Hoekstra and the planning department at PSU. PSU suggested a bronze plaque set into a large bolder. The committee liked the boulder setting. The committee reviewed the text and layout of the plaque. The committee desired to see text changes. Hedberg, Karp, and Washington volunteered to edit and offer suggestions for new plaque text. Committee members were encouraged to email Hedberg and Washington directly if they have suggestions. Carbone will make sure PSU receives the correct Heritage Tree Logo for the marker.

**Heritage Tree Presentation Refresh:** Appling said that she will be presenting in July and suggested the Heritage Tree presentation should be updated. The committee discussed ideas and suggestions on what they would like to update and improve. Carbone will create an updated presentation with updated information and graphics. The presentation will include standard information about the program's history, a tree that represents each of the nomination categories, and its two award programs. There will be slides that focus on the trees found in certain geographic locations that can be added or removed depending on the presenter's needs. There will also be a general script to go along with the presentation.

## Annual Awards

- a. **Update on nominations and processes for reviewing awards received:**

Carbone informed the committee that no nominations have been received as of the date of this meeting. Carbone asked the committee how it wants to handle the discussion of possible nominations if any are received. Ramstad said that it is anticipated that the Governor will declare April "Arbor Month" again this year and suggested forming a subcommittee to discuss nominations before April in case the winners or nominators would like to present the awards during this month. McKnight suggested that any nominations received be sent to the whole committee and those who want to be part of the subcommittee can then volunteer. The committee agreed that would be the best method. Wolf suggested possible methods to spread the word about nominations

### **Updates & Reports/New Business**

a. **TIC/Council Report:** Washington said he had nothing to report.

b. **Reports from Members:**

- **Wolf:** Wolf said that Oregon Community Trees (OCT) is looking for nominations for its awards program. Wolf asked the committee to nominate any organizations, people, or groups and she will share the nomination form. Mike Oxendine is the new President of OCT.
- **Hedberg:** Hedberg said he had been busy. Hedberg received funding from OCT to make a documentary about the Hiroshima Peace Trees and is excited to begin interviewing once he is able. He continues work on the Williamson-Abbot tree video.
- **McKnight:** McKnight suggested the firefighters, or any other group involved in the 2protection of the Bombsite Tree, as a possible Heritage Tree Hero.
- **Nyberg:** Nyberg is very busy, good things are happening, and he is retiring this year.
- **Tocchini:** Tocchini is working with the city at the newly redeveloped old Fairview School Area. He is working on a nomination for a grove of trees at the site. Tocchini is also working with the development of the Meyer Family farm development in Salem, OR.
- **Lehan:** Lehan said she had been appointed by the Governor to the Willamette Falls Locks Authority.
- **Brown:** Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is using LaPine State Park as a station for firefighters. A contractor has been signed to do some tree thinning. There is also new funding for State Police to be able to patrol the park for possible threats during peak fire season and funding to create additional exits out of the park in case visitors need to be evacuated.
- **Ramstad:** Ramstad said she was asked to write an article about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Moon Tree. There will be a celebration of the Moon Trees in Coos Bay on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Urban Forestry Awards nominations are due February 14, 2022. Ramstad will be retiring form ODF in April.

### **2022 Meeting/Events Schedule**

April 2022 (PSU Dedication): July 15, 2022- Teams Meeting: October 2022

**Adjourn at 2:55 p.m.**

Heritage Tree Meeting 1-14-2022 (submitted 7-08-2022)