



Travel Information Council  
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97302

MINUTES  
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee  
Friday, October 14, 2022  
Hybrid Meeting

**Committee Participants:** Chair Craig Leech; Vice-Chair David Hedberg; Scott Brown; Molly McKnight; Arne Nyberg; Kristin Ramstad; Richard Riggs; Al Tocchini; Samantha Wolf

**Excused:** Nancy Appling-Salucci; Jennifer Karpis; Charlotte Lehan; Ed Washington

**TIC Staff Participating:** Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

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**Call to Order/ Introductions:** Leech called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hedberg proposed a spelling correction. Leech proposed correcting "The highlight is added cherry trees and walkways." to "The highlight is added cherry trees and repaired walkways." *McKnight made a motion to approve the July 8, 2022 minutes as amended. Hedberg seconded the motion. 8-0 vote.*

Wolf joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

**Heritage Tree Nominations:**

- a. **Cottage Grove Incense Cedar Update:** Dehn said that she, Hedberg, and Tocchini met to discuss the tree and its nomination. They discussed the importance of gaining feedback from tribes about the Native Americans buried in the cemetery and the information that already exists at the site. They discussed the tree's reported attributes as they may also make the tree exemplary in size, but the measurement needs to be verified. Leech said that even if the tree's reported attributes are verified, the story the tree represents is the most important. The committee agreed. There is some evidence that The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde were consulted on the panel currently at the site. Hedberg suggested reaching out to Dr. David Lewis for his feedback on the story of the cemetery and the contents of the panel before bringing the contents before the Grande Ronde. Ramstad said that along with the Tribes the community would also need to feel comfortable with the story being told. The challenge is coming up with a comprehensive story within the 70-word limit.

*Tocchini made a motion to table the nomination until the size and height of the tree can be verified and further research is done on the cultural history of the tree's location. Riggs seconded. Motion passed. 9-0 vote.*

Tocchini, Hedberg, and Ramstad volunteered to form the subcommittee to research this nomination.

- b. Stone House White Oaks Update:** Dehn presented additional information provided by the nominator. The documents showed that Carrie Stone was not the architect of the home, and her contributions were likely finishing touches. The committee discussed other possible focuses for the trees' nomination such as the home's landscaping being part of the City's Historic District with multiple historically significant trees. Ultimately, the committee determined the nomination didn't meet state-level significance as submitted. The committee recognized the local significance of the tree and encourages the City of Cottage Grove to form a local heritage tree program.

*Tocchini made a motion to not accept the nomination as submitted. Wolf seconded. 9-0 vote.*

- c. West Yaquina Sitka Spruce:** Dehn presented the nomination of the West Yaquina Sitka Spruce. This tree was nominated by the Yakona Nature Preserve. The Sitka spruce is estimated to be about 200 years old and is in the Yakona Nature Preserve near Newport. The tree is accessible by car by appointment, or by a two-mile hike from the gate. The preserve stands on what was once the township of West Yaquina, across the bay from Yaquina City. The city was built at the terminus of the railroad from Corvallis. At its height, over 1500 people were living there. By the mid-1890s, the boom days were over. A fire ended up destroying Yaquina City, and by WWII the terminus of the railroad had switched to Toledo. The population of the town saw a steady decline. The committee discussed the significance of the tree as connected to the history of a coastal boom and bust town. The committee also discussed that this Sitka spruce is one of six spared from mass logging during wartime efforts. Tocchini said the tree is a very strong candidate. Hedberg agreed this is connected to significant Oregon coast industrial history: the ghost town story, boom and bust, logging of spruce, and the competition of cities for travel and trade from San Francisco.

*Hedberg made a motion to approve the nomination of the West Yaquina Sitka Spruce and the formation of a subcommittee to develop the story of the tree. McKnight seconded. Motion passed. 9-0 vote.*

The subcommittee includes Hedberg, Ramstad, and possibly Appling.

**Grove of the States Maintenance Plan Update:** Leech said that the subcommittee was able to visit and map the Grove of the States. During the visit, a detailed condition report was created along with a map of the grove. Two trees need to be sourced and/or replaced. Washington Western Hemlock and Minnesota Red Pine. The Idaho Western White Pine has blister rust. Leech has obtained a replacement that is rust resistant. Leech shared his current map of the site. The map contains original and new paths, permanent features, the location of each tree and its common name, as well as irrigation lines and sprinkler heads. Ramstad will continue to do some tree plotting of the area.

### **Communications Planning for 2023:**

- a. **Maynard Dawson & Tree Hero Awards:** The committee discussed possible outreach options and different ways to spread the news about the awards. Possible options are to reach out to Oregon Community Trees, Tree City USA cities, and reaching out to past award recipients or tree nominators. Leech asked if there was currently a list of local heritage programs throughout the state. Carbone said we have one, but she is unsure of how current it is.
- b. **DeepRoots Articles:** Dehn asked the committee for any potential topics for articles for the 2023 DeepRoots newsletter. Dehn asked if Hedberg was aware if the video on culturally modified trees would be out by then. He said ODF was focused on fire season, so the final release of the video has been put on pause but recommended an article about a tree such as the Waldo tree

to define what a culturally modified tree is and the history behind it. Hedberg volunteered to write the article.

### **Old Business:**

- a. **Enterprise Elm:** Dehn informed the committee that after her last conversation with the nominator about the request by the committee for the tree to be evaluated by an arborist, the nominator rescinded their nomination.

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

- a. **TIC/Council Report:** Riggs said that the Council held a strategic planning retreat in September. The group worked to develop the agency's mission, vision, and value statements. They are hoping to have a draft strategic plan for the Council to review and vote on in December.
- b. **Reports from Members:**
  - **Ramstad:** Reported on the Peace Tree planting ceremony on September 21. Representatives from all the communities and entities that received peace trees came together on the International Day of Peace to dedicate the ginkgo peace tree that is growing at the Department of Forestry headquarters in Salem. There was a nice gathering inside where they talked about the story of the peace trees and introduced Hideko Tamura Snyder, who was the guest of honor.
  - **Nyberg:** Nothing to report.
  - **Wolf:** Wolf said that she and the Oregon Community Trees attended the Peace Tree dedication in Salem. She was proud to say that the articles about the event were picked up by the Associated Press, so news of the event spread around the world. There are plans to continue the program by ordering more seeds from the Green Legacy Foundation and propagating more seedlings. The 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Conference will be covering the topic of forest pests. Especially handling the first documented case of Emerald Ash Borer on the west coast in Forest Grove. OCT will start its outreach for its awards program after the Thanksgiving holiday.
  - **Brown:** La Pine State Park will be starting their forest fuel reduction project next Monday. This will help protect The Big Tree and the forest around it.
  - **Hedberg:** Hedberg was able to film footage of the Peace Tree dedication in Salem. He will be attending the Great Basin symposium happening in Bend to learn about Paleo botanicals and ask some questions about potential heritage trees in the Great Basin of Oregon.
  - **Tocchini:** Tocchini volunteered to make additional plaques for our award programs.
  - **McKnight:** Nothing to report. She shared a potential heritage tree focusing on the blaze trees used to mark Old Oregon Skyline Trail, which predates the Pacific Crest Trail.

### **2023 Meeting/Events Schedule**

January 20, 2023, April (TBD), July 14, 2023

**Adjourn at 3:21 p.m.**