

# Oregon Heritage Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

**Zoom Meeting, March 1, 2023**

**Committee Participants:** Chair Kristin Ramstad; David Hedberg; Jennifer Karps; Craig Leech; Al Tocchini.

**Excused:** Vice-Chair Samantha Wolf; Nancy Appling-Salucci; Scott Brown; Charlotte Lehan; Ed Washington; Molly McKnight; Arne Nyberg.

**Staff Participants:** Beth Dehn; Jessica Carbone

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**Introductions:** Ramstad called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

## **Drawson & Hero Awards**

**Drawson Nominations:** There were no nominations received for the Maynard Drawson award for 2023.

## **Hero Award Nominations:**

**Mike Oxendine:** Dehn said Oxendine was nominated by a Talent City Councilor. Oxendine is resident of the Board of Oregon Community Trees Foundation. Oxendine initiated forming the Talent Urban Forestry Committee in 2019. He led the planning and execution of the 2022 Talent Arbor Day Tree planting event, which included 95 trees at Talent Elementary and Middle Schools. He also participated in hosting third educational tree climbing competition in Southern Oregon. Additionally, he climbed, measured, and submitted the state champion pin oak tree, attended the statewide Peace Tree Planting event in Salem in 2022 and planted, dedicated, and presented at the Peace Tree planting event in Ashland. Oxendine helped facilitate and present at Frank Callahan's Hinds Walnut planting event at the historic Hanley Farm. Oxendine has planted over 200 trees and inventoried over 1,000 trees in the City of Talent.

Tocchini said Oxendine does a lot of work with trees in his community and is certainly deserving of an award, but didn't see a historical connection to his work, which is needed for this award. Karps agreed with Tocchini's statement. Ramstad also noted that Oxendine has been instrumental in the planting of the Peace trees, but not in spreading the history behind the trees.

*Hedberg made a motion to accept Mike Oxendine as a 2023 Oregon Heritage Tree Hero. Ramstad seconded. 0-5 Vote. The motion did not pass.*

**Gregg Everhart:** Dehn said that Gregg Everhart was nominated by Portland's Urban Forestry Division, the Portland Heritage Tree Committee, and the current and former members of Portland's Urban Forestry Commission. Everhart was chair of the Portland Heritage Tree Committee for eight years. Everhart prioritized finding potential Heritage Trees in low income and low canopy neighborhoods, as a means for conveying that Heritage Trees need to be accessible to more people. She was personally instrumental in adding 62 Portland heritage

trees to the roster. She has done a great job at educating members of the Urban Forestry Commission and Portlanders about the value of Heritage Trees. Hedberg spoke to the committee about Everhart's nomination and the historical connections of the trees nominated during her tenure on the Portland Heritage Tree Committee.

*Tocchini made a motion to accept Gregg Everhart as a 2023 Oregon Heritage Tree Hero. Hedberg seconded. 5-0 Vote. The motion passed.*

**Adjourn at 1:26 p.m.**