



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, July 14, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Committee Participants: Vice-Chair David Hedberg; Nancy Appling-Salucci (virtual); Molly McKnight (virtual); Arne Nyberg (virtual); Kristin Ramstad; Al Tocchini; Brittany Oxford, Charlotte Lehan; Ed Washington (virtual); Samantha Wolf (virtual)

Excused: Chair Craig Leech, Jennifer Karpis, Richard Riggs

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

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

Approval of Minutes: *Nyberg made a motion to approve the January 20 and March 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Appling abstained from voting on the March 3 minutes. Nyberg seconded the motion. 8-0 vote.*

Elections: Dehn introduced the slate of elections. Hedberg opened the floor for nominations.

Lehan nominated Leech as chair and Hedberg as vice-chair for a one-year term. Tocchini seconded 9-0 vote.

Oxford nominated Ramstad for a three-year committee term At-Large. Lehan seconded. 9-0 vote

Hedberg noted open committee positions and encouraged the committee to think about their network of connections and who could be recruited.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- a. **Cottage Grove Incense Cedar Update:** Hedberg reported that he reached out to David Harrelson, the cultural resource manager for the Grand Ronde Tribes. He inquired if the story of the burial of Indian Mary is an appropriate story for the committee to pursue, and he extended an invitation if the tribe wants to collaborate on the project. Harrelson responded that it's culturally inappropriate to have a heritage tree tied to a tribal member in a cemetery. He was supportive of highlighting Indian Mary as an important figure in the area; however, he clarified that it's not appropriate to tie a person and a tree together in a cemetery where the person is resting, because the person and the tree have two different life cycles. If the tree was not located in the cemetery, Hedberg felt Harrelson may be more open to telling the story of Indian Mary. The committee agreed they had received a clear directive from the tribes. They discussed lessons learned about tribal consultation, including that as a committee of a state agency the tribal consultation should occur through TIC, not the nominator. As an agency it is the committee's directive to work through the official consultation process rather than with individual tribal members.

Tocchini made a motion decline the Cottage Grove Incense cedar nomination due to cultural objections from the Tribes. Ramstad seconded. 9-0 Vote.

- b. Moyer House Linden Wisteria:** Ramstad presented images of the Linden Wisteria from a visit she and Oxford made to the site. She expressed her initial concern of whether a wisteria can be considered a tree since it's a vine; however, she found the size, presence, and relationship of the two specimens so impressive her opinion was size, stature and being an entity within the community would meet the criteria of being a heritage tree. Ramstad expressed concern that the story around the Moyers was a bit weak. The committee discussed the potential Native American connection of Eliza Young braiding the wisteria vine and need for caution without documentation of that aspect of the story.

Lehan motioned to accept the Moyer House Linden Wisteria as a heritage tree for being a unique entity within the community and its connection to a broader pattern of pioneer history. Tocchini seconded. 9-0 Vote.

Ramstad, Hedberg, and Oxford volunteered to write the text.

- c. Northrup Creek Horse Camp Big Tree Trail:** Dehn explained that when the nominators first submitted this nomination it focused exclusively on the size of the trees. The nominators state that the small area hosts four of the largest or almost largest native trees in Oregon on a short easy trail. Tocchini shared that he used to manage the unit and it is the site of the "failed" Northrup Grazing Experiment in 1936 to study the effects of grazing on reforestation. Tocchini stated that the historic connection to Governor Sprague is stronger. Sprague's term was marked by the state's first forestry rules. The committee discussed that these trees could tell the story of the development of modern forestry in Oregon, particularly the difference between state forestry and federal forestry. The committee discussed concern that no member had visited the site and images of the other "big trees" weren't included.

Tocchini made a motion to accept the Northrup Creek Horse Camp Big Tree Trail for its connection to the development of the Oregon forestry, pending a visit to the site by committee members. Lehan seconded. 9-0 Vote.

Heritage Tree Analysis Summary & Goals: Dehn recapped the analysis discussion that occurred at the January 2023 meeting and summarized the main goals that came out of that discussion: 1) getting more diverse nominations that include historically underrepresented groups, and 2) inspiring better formulated nominations to alleviate that responsibility from the committee. Dehn and Carbone proposed achievable goals for the next three years, including outreach to heritage groups, repackaging existing content in new ways, expanding website content, and celebrating the 30th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary. The committee brainstormed additional outreach tactics. The committee agreed to maintain an "idea arboretum" of potential nominations to track ideas that have come up and inspire members to do research between meetings.

Old Business:

- a. **Philander Oak Tree:** Dehn reported that TIC got a call from Canby that the Philander Lee Oak Tree recently split and had to be taken down.
- b. **Dosch Yellow Bellflower Apple Tree:** Dehn said she got a call from Jim Driscoll that his community found an arborist to do some pro-bono work on the tree. They will send photos.
- c. **Trysting Tree:** Oxford said that she's been visiting heritage trees while out in the field. As this is a clone, the committee discussed the policy around grafting or creating generations of a heritage tree.
- d. **Yang Madrone:** Oxford reported there's significant ground die back and the tree isn't looking very

healthy. Committee discussed maintenance funding.

Updates & Reports/New Business

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

b. **Reports from Members:**

- **McKnight:** Plans to run up to Milwaukie to look at the cherry tree. She also hopes to check out the blaze trees on the Old Skyline Trail soon and reported that she's still looking into the Round-up.
- **Appling:** Said she intends to visit Bandon to see if there are trees that survived the big fire there. She is intrigued with the idea of investigating medicinal trees along the Oregon Trail.
- **Nyberg:** Nothing to report.
- **Wolf:** Will be starting a job with Urban Forestry at Portland Parks and Rec including coordinating the Portland Heritage Tree Program. Reported that Oregon Community Trees had a very successful conference in June talking about pests.
- **Washington:** Reported that he is getting caught up and returning to work after COVID.
- **Tocchini:** Reported there will be a 34-acre park in Salem with historic interpretation at the former Fairview Training grounds. He is encouraging a heritage grove at the location.
- **Lehan:** Shared that she has been presenting history lectures about Wilsonville; the fourth one is about saving trees in Wilsonville.
- **Oxford:** Expressed her excitement to be part of the committee. Inquired if there is data on local heritage tree programs so she can incorporate that in her outreach.
- **Ramstad:** Reported that she attended the official Peace Tree ceremony at the prison in Salem. The adults in custody hosted the gathering. Ramstad noted that the importance of that tree to the group is very inspiring.
- **Hedberg:** Reported that he's very busy filming documentaries and will be traveling to Japan in the fall to show work samples about the Peace Tree projects to two universities. He is also interviewing the USDA researcher who cultivated the Cascade hop.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

October 13, 2023; January 12, 2024; March 6, 2024

Adjourn at 3:04 p.m.