



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, January 24, 2024
Virtual Meeting

Committee Participants: Chair Craig Leech, Vice-Chair David Hedberg; Nancy Appling-Salucci; Molly McKnight; Arne Nyberg; Brittany Oxford; Jennifer Karps; Kristin Ramstad; Al Tocchini; Samantha Wolf

Excused: Charlotte Lehan; Richard Riggs; Ed Washington

TIC Staff Participating: Elizabeth Boxall, Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

Public Comment: None

Call to Order/ Introductions: Leech called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: *Tocchini made a motion to approve the October 13, 2023 minutes as amended. Oxford seconded. 9-0 vote. Nyberg abstained.*

New Member Application: The committee discussed the member application of Michael Hogan. Hogan is a forester with Oregon State Parks with a BS in biology, and 30 years of experience as a forester, and will soon be getting his arborist certification. His location would make Hogan a potential candidate to represent Central Oregon. The committee had additional questions for the candidate and asked if Hogan could be invited to the next meeting. Dehn will invite Hogan to attend the next meeting.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- a. **Philip Foster Farm:** Leech asked if the committee had time to review the Philip Foster Farm nomination. Appling confirmed that the program already has the Foster Farm Lilac. The nominated tree is on private property and the owner believes the land used to be a part of the Philip Foster Farm. The committee failed to distinguish the strong significance of the nomination to any of the criteria for a Heritage Tree.

Hedberg made a motion to decline the nomination due to its lack of connection to Oregon History. Tocchini seconded.

The committee asked that nominators be thanked for their nomination and be made aware that the program already includes a feature of the Philip Foster Farm.

10-0 Vote.

2024 Heritage Tree Plaque Texts Review

- a. **Moyer House Linden/Wisteria:** Carbone thanked the members of the subcommittee for their excellent work on the Moyer House text. The committee decided to focus the plaque text on the plants themselves based on the information available about the Moyers and their house on nearby signage. The committee discussed how best to accurately describe the circumference since both plants have defined trunks but the canopies have entwined. Oxford suggested including the individual circumference of both. The committee then made recommendations for grammatical corrections.
- b. **Northrup Creek Big Tree Trail:** Dehn presented two draft texts for the Northrup plaque and asked the committee to pick out the salient points to carry forward. She then thanked Leech and Tocchini for their work on providing two good options. The committee made recommendations and discussed the overall content focus of the text. Due to time constraints at the meeting, Dehn recommended taking the committee's suggestions and recommendations back to the subcommittee with the cleaned-up text. Dehn will be reaching out to the subcommittee soon.

Outreach Check-in:

Hedberg: Due to Hedberg's time constraints, Leech asked if he would like to talk to the committee about his recent work at the Vanport site. Hedberg said he has visited the site while working with archaeologists to nominate the Vanport site to the National Register of Historic Places. He believes he has found a grouping of cottonwoods in a series of historic photographs that go back to the time of Vanport. Hedberg hopes to be able to bring a nomination to the committee soon.

Adoption Discussion for Grove of the States: Leech made a motion to discuss the possible adoption of the Grove the States (GOS) by the Heritage Tree Committee. Leech cited all the work the committee has done for and on the GOS to raise the grove to one of the premier groves in the state. He shared his goal to ensure its success for the next 50 years.

Hedberg left the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

The committee discussed the possible responsibilities that would come with that commitment and the precedent the adoption of GOS could set. After a thorough discussion, the committee decided that the committee would always be willing to support TIC in the care of the grove with its combined expertise and volunteer care but did not want to set the precedent of a formal agreement of adopting the grove.

Outreach Check-in:

Leech asked the committee if there were any updates or information, they would like to share about their current outreach efforts. McKnight said she is trying to think of innovative ways to find a possible nomination tree attached to the Pendleton Round-Up. Her other outreach has not generated any solid leads. Oxford has developed possible leads during her work in the Redmond location. She still plans on updating or even creating a new list of all the heritage tree programs in the state.

Updates & Reports/New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Report:** Boxall said that the agency continues to work through its strategic planning initiatives around future funding plans. This plan includes identifying and connecting with possible stakeholders.

Leech left the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Several of the leadership team have been on extended leave so several core functions at the agency are being moved around.

Leech returned to the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

b. Reports from Members:

- **Tocchini:** Tocchini reported that the City of Salem is refining the plan of what was going to be a 34-acre park at the former Fairview Training grounds in which the heritage plaza has been moved to a new spot, but he continues to work on a possible nomination.
- **McKnight:** McKnight updated the committee on her current health challenges that affect her ability to be active. She expressed her interest to still be a part of the committee even if she can't join in person as often in the near future.
- **Leech:** Leech informed the committee that in his search to find two eastern white pines for the Grove of the States he found out that every five-needle pine is susceptible to blister rust. He has found the Accanto River Seed Orchard in Wisconsin has a blister rust resistant program for the eastern white pine and is working to make contact there or possibly find stronger candidates from a local nursery.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

- March 6, 2024;- The committee shared some concerns that this date may not work for the meeting. Carbone will send out a poll to find a new date.
- April Dedication-TBA
- July 12, 2024
- October 11, 2024

Adjourn at 3:04 p.m.