



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, October 13, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Committee Participants: Chair Craig Leech, Vice-Chair David Hedberg; Nancy Appling-Salucci; Molly McKnight (virtual); Brittany Oxford (virtual); Jennifer Karps (virtual); Kristin Ramstad; Al Tocchini; Ed Washington (virtual); Samantha Wolf (virtual)

Excused: Charlotte Lehan; Arne Nyberg; Richard Riggs

TIC Staff Participating: Elizabeth Boxall, Jessica Carbone

Guest: Charlie Esparza

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: *Appling-Salucci made a motion to approve the July 13, 2023 minutes as amended. Ramstad seconded the motion. 7-0 vote. Leech and Karps abstained.*

Washington Joined the meeting.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- a. **Northrup Creek Horse Camp Big Tree Trail:** Tocchini spoke about his second trip out to see the trail with Washington. He accepted that the measurements submitted with the original application were accurate. Leech spoke to the committee about the trip he, Tocchini, Ramstad, and Carbone took to visit the trail and gather information in the last week of August. Leech said that the park managers have done a great job with the interpretive opportunities and the location is unique and accessible. The committee discussed the history of the site connecting Governor Sprague's term marking the state's first forestry rules, the development of modern forestry, and state forestry versus federal forestry. In 1936 the Board of Forestry deeded almost 654 acres of forest land, but ORS chapter 530, and the Acquisition act, was not adopted until 1939. That's when Governor Sprague gave his speeches at or near this location. Leech said are tied into the history of Oregon State forests.

Tocchini made a motion to finalize the acceptance of the Northrup Creek Horse Camp Big Tree Trail into the Oregon Heritage Tree Program. Ramstad seconded. 10-0 Vote.

Tocchini and Leech volunteered to compose the text of the Big Tree Trail plaque text.

Grove of the States Maintenance Plan: Leech presented the most current version of the GOTS maintenance plan. The plan will need to be updated every year. The planned maintenance work of creating tree rings to protect the trees from maintenance equipment was completed by a crew hired from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Oxford and associates from the Oregon Department of Forestry came to the grove to conduct training on structural pruning which was completed on almost every tree. During this time it was discovered that the tree planted as a pin oak is a white oak and will need to be replaced. The Michigan Eastern White Pine will also need to be added. Leech said that work to repair and replace some of the signage will be done in the next year. The plan tracks and summarizes the condition of the grove by year and grove maintenance recommendations. The committee thanked Leech for all the work he put into the plan.

Annual Tree Awards: Carbone informed the committee that there have been no nominations for the Maynard Dawson Award or the Heritage Tree Hero Award. Oxford offered to include the award nominations in the ODF newsletter. The committee then discussed the possibilities of advertising the awards to possible nominators.

Old Business:

- a. **Moyer House Wisteria Text:** Carbone asked if the group that volunteered to write the text for the Moyer house would be available the following week to complete it. The text will be sent to the committee for review before the next meeting.
- b. **Outreach check-in:** There were no updates on the idea arboretum at this time.

Updates & Reports/New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Report:** Carbone said that the most recent Council meeting was held in Bend, OR. Staff is working on several capital projects. The renovations and expanded car park at The Maples are complete. Boxall said that the agency continues to work through its strategic planning initiatives around future funding, organizational development and IT needs.
- b. **Reports from Members:**
 - **Wolf:** Wolf reported that Oregon Community Trees had a very successful conference in June. OCT is looking for a new venue for the next conference in the mid-valley around Corvallis or Eugene. The conference will focus on trees and housing development. Wolf said the new incoming president of OCT will be Tyler Roth. Moving on to the Portland Heritage Tree committee, Wolf said the committee is working on locating and documenting all of their heritage trees located on private property and to get all of those trees listed on the property deed.
 - **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.
 - **Oxford:** Oxford is working to collect data on local heritage tree programs so she can incorporate that into her outreach.
 - **Ramstad:** Ramstad has recently visited the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and shared how surprised she was by the number of invasive Spotted Lantern Fly she saw there. She said everyone was stomping on them. Ramstad also saw the new beach foliar disease, which is currently a mystery disease.
 - **Hedberg:** Hedberg will be traveling to Japan in a couple of weeks to visit the source of the Hiroshima Oregon Peace Trees and sharing work samples.

Oregon Ethics Commission Training: Charlie Esparza from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission provided training to the committee on the Use of Office and Conflicts of Interest.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

January 12, 2024; March 6, 2024; April Dedication TBA

Adjourn at 3:04 p.m.