



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, July 12, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Vice-Chair (virtual); Kristin Ramstad; Al Tocchini; Samantha Wolf; Molly McKnight; Charlotte Lehan; Jennifer Karps (virtual); Brittany Oxford (virtual); Arne Nyberg

Excused: Craig Leech, Chair; Nancy Appling-Salucci; Ed Washington

Guests: Mike Hogan, Mike Oxendine

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone, Mike Auman

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: *Tocchini moved to approve the January 24 & March 1, 2024 Minutes. Nyberg seconded. 9-0 vote.*

Elections: Dehn introduced the slate of committee members up for renewing their three-year term. Karps shared that the nature of her work has changed at the City of Portland and she is no longer active in the tree program. Dehn suggested Wolf could move into the City representative position and Karps become an at-large member. The committee agreed.

Wolf joined the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Lehan moved to accept the slate of six renewals for committee positions. Tocchini seconded. 9-0 vote.

Dehn shared leadership history of the committee and invited volunteers to step forward. Hedberg agreed to be considered for chair. Tocchini volunteered to be considered for vice-chair.

Lehan moved to approve the nominations of Hedberg as chair and Tocchini as vice chair. Oxford seconded. 9-0 vote.

Prospective Member: The committee reviewed Mike Hogan's application and Hogan introduced himself. Hogan was a forester for 30 years, including being in the Forest Service 10 years, a country forester in northern Minnesota, and 10 years with Oregon Department of Forestry. He is new at Oregon Parks and Recreation as the Mountain Region forester, which covers the eastern side of the state. Hogan expressed enthusiasm to join the committee.

Heritage Tree Nomination: Dehn presented the nomination for Maples on the Dunes in Florence. She worked with the nominator to find a local history connection to an event called Harvard Lights, but further research indicated this was a small, local event. The committee discussed the criteria of size and stature. They encouraged the nominator to consider a local program. Oxford offered assistance from the Urban and Community Forestry Program to help develop a local program.

Karps motioned to decline the nomination for Maples on the Dunes as a state heritage tree and connect the nominator with Oxford to discuss a local program. Oxford seconded. 9-0 vote.

Dehn presented images of a 300-year-old Oak in Washington County that were submitted by a landowner who is selling their property to a developer. No formal nomination was submitted. The committee reviewed the images and suggested adding a condition of sale or deed restriction to protect the tree. Dehn will communicate with the nominator.

Collaborative Grant Project Proposal: Oxendine presented a proposal for OUR Community Trees to work with the Heritage Tree Program to apply for IRA funding through the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The proposed concept is to assess trees for health and viability, plot them on GPS, conduct a canopy analysis and risk assessment, and hire arborists to help maintain the trees. The committee discussed roles of the partners, the need for dollars to support heritage tree assessment and maintenance, and the scope of which trees might be eligible in the equity geography requirement. The committee recognized that as a state agency they are unable to be the lead applicant and discussed what that partnership would look like. Auman suggested a letter of support might be the most TIC could offer to support the project. Tocchini, Ramstad, Hedberg & Wolf volunteered to form a subcommittee to further discuss scope and respond to Oxendine in a timely fashion.

Plaque Revision Update: Dehn reported that she, Hedberg, and Ramstad reviewed the top five priority text revisions and Dehn sent the Giant Spruce of Cape Perpetua and Octopus Tree text to Peter Hatch at CTSI. There has not been a response. Dehn will continue to pursue communication with CTSI.

Proposed Amendment to the Tree Committee Charter: The Travel Information Council proposed revising the committee's charter to remove the stipulation that membership of the committee is approved by the Council. The Council feels that the committee can make those decisions independently. A member of the TIC also sits on the committee as a layer of oversight. The Council would like an annual list to be apprised of who is on the committee and retain the right to remove a member if necessary.

Nyberg moved to adopt the membership amendment to the Heritage Tree Committee Charter. McKnight seconded. 9-0 vote.

Outreach Check-in: Dehn reported that good outreach has been done in the last two quarters. The committee met the goal of sending outreach letters to the 10 counties without heritage trees. In March, Leech sent 93 letters to local governments, heritage agencies, and tourism boards. Dehn and Carbone attended the Governor's Tourism Conference & the Oregon Heritage Conference in April and promoted the program. Dehn presented the program on the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association Culture & Heritage Call and heard about two potential trees. Dehn also reported that the city of Pendleton provided a direct response they don't have an eligible tree. They will be removed from the Idea Arboretum. Dehn sent an email the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation and got no response. Wolf said she has seen the site and there are very few trees in that section of the cemetery. Dehn will

forward to Wolf for follow-up. Hedberg reported that he is working on a nomination for a Cottonwood in Vanport. McKnight suggested adding Kiyokawa Orchards in Hood River County. Hedberg suggested adding Nyssa as the site of a German POW camp to the Idea Arboretum.

Updates & Reports / New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Update:** Auman reported that the TIC is recruiting a new executive director. The council recently decided to open a second-round search and hopes to have a new director in place in November. Auman also noted that the council's rest areas are funded primarily by a direct allocation of state highway dollars. TIC is working to get additional funds for the rest area program.
- b. **New Business:** Hedberg thanked Hogan for joining the meeting and called for discussion on admitting a new member to the committee.

Karps motioned to accept Hogan's application to the committee. Tocchini seconded. 9-0 vote.

- c. **Reports from Members:**

Nyberg: Brought a piece of Chestnut to share with Tocchini to make plaques.

Wolf: Reported there was a protest held at the PSU library over the winter resulting in conflict and camping on the grounds around the PSU Copper Beech Heritage Tree. The library is under remodel, but the tree is fine. There is no known structural damage to the trunk.

Lehan: Shared that she is planning to step down when her term is up in 2025. She suggested recruiting more history-focused members in the future.

McKnight: Interested in looking into the history of a cherry planted at the Milwaukie Museum.

Ramstad: Attended the Oregon Community Trees conference in Eugene that focused on more housing and more trees. It was well done and well attended.

Oxford: Said the IRA subaward grant program is almost live. ODF is also hiring two new emerald ash borer support specialists, which will make a team of nine urban and community foresters.

Hedberg: Reported making a lot of road trips.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

- October 11, 2024
- January 10, 2025

Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.