



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, October 11, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Chair; Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; Craig Leech; Nancy Appling (virtual); Mike Hogan (virtual); Samantha Wolf (virtual); Charlotte Lehan (virtual); Brittany Oxford (virtual); John Hamilton (virtual)

Excused: Jennifer Karps; Molly McKnight; Arne Nyberg; Kristin Ramstad

TIC Staff Participants: 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: *Hamilton moved to approve the July 12, 2024 Minutes. Leech seconded. 8-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; Leech- yes; Appling-abstained; Hogan- yes; Wolf- yes; Lehan-yes; Oxford- yes; Hamilton-yes.*

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- A. **JQA Young House:** Dehn presented the nomination for the John Quincy Adams Young House, submitted by Tree Keepers of Washington County for three fruit trees. Dehn explained the nomination was submitted without prior approval of the landowner. She is now in contact with Tualatin Hills Parks and Rec to work on that. The significance of the trees is that they are associated with the oldest building in Cedar Mill, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house was built in 1853 was part of a sawmill complex, served as the first post office in the community, and locates where the community began. The committee discussed the lack of a statewide connection, but noted that the nomination serves as an example of early settlement and is connected in many small ways to state history. The trees are part of a larger historic package of Oregon development. The committee discussed the health of the trees, the relevance to the community today, and their connection to the beginning of Beaverton. Lehan noted that most houses from before 1880 are usually gone, and the remaining fruit trees indicate where the house used to be. In this case, the house is still there and viewers can see the relationship of the trees to the house, which is an interpretive opportunity.

Lehan motioned to table the nomination for the JQA Young House, form a text committee, do a health assessment, and get permission from the landowner. Oxford seconded. 9-0 vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; Leech- yes; Appling-yes; Hogan- yes; Wolf- yes; Lehan-yes; Oxford- yes; Hamilton-yes.

Lehan volunteered to craft the verbiage, McKnight do an assessment, and Dehn follow-up on outreach to the landowner.

B. Vanport: Hedberg introduced the nomination for potential trees that survived the Vanport flood. Nidus Consulting, in collaboration with Vanport Placemaking Project, did a survey to identify the largest trees within the area, and Hedberg found aerial photo evidence of these trees through archival research. Hedberg noted that landowner permission is not currently in place. It is a complex site owned by Portland Parks that includes Portland International Raceway and Heron Lakes Golf Course. The committee discussed public accessibility to the trees, tree type, and the landowners. The committee expressed concern about the lifespan and health of the cottonwood and ash trees, but noted they are native and appropriate to the site. The group felt this is an opportunity to identify one or two trees to represent other trees that may exist at the site. The committee discussed next steps for contacting landowners and increasing community group involvement. Hedberg volunteered to reach out to landowners and other community groups.

Oxford motioned to table nomination and form a small subcommittee to get landowner permissions. Appling seconded. 9-0 vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; Leech- yes; Appling-yes; Hogan- yes; Wolf- yes; Lehan-yes; Oxford- yes; Hamilton-yes

Collaborative Grant Project Proposal: Dehn recapped that a subcommittee of Tocchini, Ramstad, Hedberg and Wolf met shortly after the July meeting and determined the Committee supports OUR Community Forestry's IRA funding proposal for Heritage Trees but is not able to act in partnership as an agency at this time. Oxendine mapped the state heritage trees and found that 40% fall within the EPA's Justice 40 areas of priority. Dehn reported the current proposal is mainly to fund arborists to do the assessment and intervention work. Dehn submitted a letter of support on behalf of TIC and committed to communicating with landowners should the opportunity be funded.

Outreach Check-in: Dehn reported that she updated the plan to reflect 2026 as the 30th anniversary year, which is accurate to when the program charter was signed in 1996. This shifted the 2025 action items to 2026. A big push will be to update the content on the website in preparation for the anniversary. Dehn requested members send updated heritage tree photos to her as they are able.

Annual Training: The committee completed annual discrimination and harassment free workplace training and had an opportunity to ask questions.

Updates & Reports / New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Update:** Auman thanked everyone who participated in the Meet & Greet session for the executive director recruitment and reported the council decided not to offer a job to the individual who was interviewed. The Council is now looking at individual for a direct appointment. Auman also noted rest area funding is a top priority for the agency.
- b. **Reports from Members:**
 - Appling:** Reported some trees were planted at Hanley Farm in honor of Frank Callahan and they didn't make it. Appling is monitoring the health of the saplings.
 - Oxford:** Recently returned from the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA meeting where she presented on work ODF is doing with Oregon tribes. ODF's all-entity grant program closes on October 15 and is looking for panelists for grant review.
 - Hogan:** Visited the sugar pine at Tub Springs.

Lehan: Reported that the Wilsonville Historical Society will have a program with an archaeologist at Boone's Ferry landing to report on their findings.

Hamilton: Shared that he is a new TIC council person. The topic is a learning experience for him.

Wolf: Reported OCT was in Pendleton in September for their quarterly meeting. The City of Pendleton received IRA funds for urban forestry.

Tocchini: Nothing to report.

Leech: Reported Grove of the States is 100% after a lot of work.

Hedberg: Reported he is presenting at the Pacific Northwest History Conference on women barnstormers. Hedberg was contacted by Lane County Historical Society to do a tree talk in spring. Appling may join.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

- January 10, 2025 at ODF Office in Salem
- March Virtual Award Meeting TBD
- April Heritage Tree Dedications TBD

Adjourned at 2:33 p.m.