



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Monday, March 3, 2025
Virtual Meeting

Committee Participants: Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; Nancy Appling; Brittany Oxford; Kristin Ramstad; Kristine McConnell; Samantha Wolf

Excused: David Hedberg; Arne Nyberg; John Hamilton; Mike Hogan; Jennifer Karps; Molly McKnight

TIC Staff Participants: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/ Introductions: Tocchini called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

Heritage Tree Award Review: Dehn summarized the criteria for the Tree Hero Award and gave a brief overview of the nomination for Craig Leech. TIC submitted a nomination to recognize Leech's efforts in creating a maintenance plan for the Grove of the States. The committee discussed Leech's foresight in creating plans laypersons can implement to maintain a heritage grove, the importance of his work in supporting a heritage grove with state-wide visibility, the details of the plan, and the number of volunteer hours he gave to the effort. The committee unanimously agreed that Leech deserves the award and gave full support for approval.

Tocchini made a motion to nominate Craig Leech for a 2025 Heritage Tree Hero Award. Appling seconded. 6-0 vote. Appling-yes; McConnell-yes; Tocchini-yes; Oxford-yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf-yes.

2025 Dedication Update: Dehn shared that the group who nominated the JQA Young House trees suggests the best time to dedicate the trees is in conjunction with the Cedar Mill Cider Festival held at the end of September. The committee agreed and asked Dehn to announce the designation in April to coincide with Arbor Month and arrange the designation in September. The committee then discussed the Vanport trees that were accepted in January but are awaiting final approval by the landowner- the City of Portland. Wolf shared that she is finalizing a letter of acceptance for the City Parks Department to sign and believes it will happen soon. The committee decided to wait until 2026 to announce and/or dedicate the Vanport trees to allow more time for planning. Dehn will coordinate with Leech to present his Hero Award at a spring "clean-up day" at the Grove of the States. If that doesn't work, a second option is to present the award to Leech at the September dedication in Cedar Mill.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule: The committee discussed combining the October meeting to coincide with the Cider Festival as a way to gather everyone in person.

- July 11, 2025
- September Dedication TBA
- October 10, 2025

Adjourned at 11:28 a.m.