



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, January 10, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
Oregon Department of Forestry

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Chair; Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; John Hamilton (virtual); Mike Hogan (virtual); Jennifer Karpis (virtual); Charlotte Lehan; Molly McKnight; Brittany Oxford; Kristin Ramstad; Samantha Wolf (virtual).

Excused: Arne Nyberg; Nancy Appling

TIC Staff Participants: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone, Mac Lynde

Guests: Scott Altenhoff-UCF Program Manager; Hilary Olivos-Rood-UCF Grant Program Administrator; Jennifer Killian-Community Assistance Forester; Lilah Gonen-Community Assistance Forester, Alison Herrell- Community Assistance Forester; Kat Bethea-Emerald Ash Borer Support Specialist; Matt Mills-Emerald Ash Borer Support Specialist.

Call to Order/ Introductions: Hedberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Meet & Greet with ODF Urban Forestry Staff: Oxford introduced Oregon Department of Forestry staff. The members attending introduced themselves and their role in the Urban Forestry Department.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: *Lehan moved to approve the October 11, 2024 Minutes as amended. McKnight seconded. 9-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini-yes; Hamilton-yes; Hogan-yes; Karpis-abstained; Lehan- yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford-yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.*

Heritage Tree Nominations:

A. John Quincy Adams Young House Trees: Lehan and the committee discussed the presented arborist report on the health and safety concerns the trees may have. The arborist reported there was low to moderate concern. Dehn said that she received approval last week from the property owners for the nomination and the placement of a heritage tree plaque. Lehan shared her belief that the nomination should include all the trees around the house because the significance of the trees is their proximity and relationship to the house itself. It is an example of early home management and food production for people; not just planting trees in an orchard for farming but planting trees near the family house to provide earlier access to food for the home.

Tocchini motioned to accept the nomination for the JQA Young House trees, which would include all three trees. Ramstad seconded.

10-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini-yes; Hamilton-yes; Hogan-yes; Karpis-yes; Lehan-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford-

yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf-yes.

Since it was Lehan's last meeting, Dehn volunteered to connect with a representative from the JQA to craft a draft plaque text for comment and review. Ramstad, Hedberg, and Wolf volunteered to review the text.

- B. Vanport:** Wolf informed the committee about her conversations with the different landowners and managers. The committee discussed the location of the different trees and decided to focus on the trees that were easiest for the public to access. The committee then discussed how healthy the trees looked. The Committee recommended trees 1, 3, and 4 for the nomination.

Oxford motioned to approve the Vanport Trees Nomination. The land managers will be given the option of which tree, 1, 3, or 4, will have the plaque placed in front of it. Ramstad seconded. 10-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini-yes; Hamilton-yes; Hogan-yes; Karps-abstained; Lehan- yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford-yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.

Wolf will contact Portland City Parks and any other land managers for the site selections.

- C. Henry Hornbeam at Ainsworth Linear Arboretum:** Dehn presented the nomination for the Hornbeam at Ainsworth Linear Arboretum. The committee discussed the youth of the tree and its lack of historical significance. Wolf informed the committee that the tree had been nominated for the Portland Heritage Tree Program as well. Lehn said that the Arboretum was an interesting part of the nomination. Hedberg suggested that the arboretum was part of Portland's "city beautiful city planning" from Olmstead in 1903. Lehan suggested that might be the historical connection. Karps spoke about her history with the arboretum and the location. McKnight shared information with the committee about the arboretum she found on its website. Early in the 20th century, the famed Olmstead landscape firm developed a park plan for Portland. The plan envisioned people arriving from the east would be welcomed into the city via a great tree-lined boulevard reaching the Willamette River. Only one portion of this was ever realized - a wide median in the middle of NE Ainsworth from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (then Union Avenue) to NE 37th. Lehan suggested that the nomination be sent back and revised with a focus on the arboretum and its history instead of the individual tree.

McKnight made a motion to communicate to the nominator that the committee would not approve a nomination for Henry Hornbeam itself, but recommend the nomination to be resubmitted with a focus on the history of the Arboretum for discussion at the July meeting. Lehan seconded. 10-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini-yes; Hamilton-yes; Hogan-yes; Karps-abstained; Lehan- yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford-yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.

Heritage Tree Awards: Dehn reminded the committee that nomination forms for the 2025 Maynard Drawson Award and Heritage Tree Hero Award are now available on the Travel Information Council's (TIC) website. Nominations are due February 14. Dehn has sent communications to all the local Heritage Tree programs. The committee discussed different methods to advertise the program.

Website Check-in: Dehn informed the committee that she has updated the Heritage Tree and Historical Marker maps on TIC's website. Work on this new map and in preparation for the program's 30th Anniversary has made the need for updated beautiful photos of the Heritage Trees very clear. Dehn asked the committee to please take photos of heritage trees and send them to her.

Dehn then informed the committee that she and Nancy Appling took part in a podcast called The Dirty Free Hub talking about the Monterey Cypress.

Hedberg informed the committee that he has spoken with the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and they are very interested in nominating the Akebono Cherry Trees in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. They want to wait until after the Burnside Bridge construction is finished to make sure the trees survive. The committee then spoke about the different connections that could be investigated to share Japanese Oregon history.

Updates & Reports / New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Update:** Lynde introduced himself as the new Executive Director of TIC as of November 2024. Lynde said he and TIC's Chair Eliza Canty-Jones had already had the opportunity to speak to the Joint Committee on Transportation to make sure they were reminded about who TIC was and what TIC does going into the 2025 legislative session. Lynde then said he was recently on a road trip where he visited and took pictures of TIC's Heritage Trees.
- b. **Reports from Members:**
- c. **Lehan:** Lehan asked the committee to keep looking for a tree that could have been used for medicinal purposes, either by early European settlers or Native Americans. Lynde thanked Lehan for her nearly 30 years of service as a Heritage Tree Committee Member.
Oxford: Oxford updated the committee on all the work that is keeping the Department of Urban Forestry busy. Work continues on the final review stages of the available grants funded through a partnership with IRA and the Tribal Governments program. They have launched a new Emerald Ash Borer Website on the ODF website. Although her work keeps her very busy, Oxford shared her desire to focus more energy on creating resource development and tracking local heritage tree programs. Oxford updated the current list of community heritage tree programs as she can.

Dehn told the committee Craig Leech retired from Oregon State Parks and Recreation on December 1st and resigned from the committee. Dehn is hoping Leech will be able to attend the next tree dedication where we will be able to thank him for his service to the committee.

Upcoming Meeting/Events Schedule

- March Virtual Award Meeting TBD
- April Heritage Tree Dedications TBD
- July 11, 2025

Adjourned at 3:03 p.m.