



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

MINUTES

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, January 9, 2026
Hybrid Meeting TIC Office, Salem

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Chair (virtual); Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; Kristin Ramstad; Mike Boero (virtual); Carol Palmer (virtual); Mike Hogan (virtual); Jennifer Karpis (virtual); Kristine McConnell (Virtual); Brittany Oxford (Virtual); Samantha Wolf (virtual); Molly McKnight (virtual).

Excused: Arne Nyberg; Nancy Appling

Guest: Corey Fisher (virtual)

TIC Staff Participants: Beth Dehn (virtual), Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/ Introductions: Hedberg called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Karpis noted a correction to her participation in the Value Statement subcommittee.

Tocchini moved to approve the October 10, 2025 minutes as corrected. McKnight seconded. 11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Hogan- yes; Karpis- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes; Boero -yes.

Special Presentation: Corey Fisher, PSU student, presented research from his LiDAR certificate that identified the tallest tree in Hillsboro based on the Courthouse Elms as the control group.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- A. Ainsworth Linear Arboretum:** Hedberg and Karpis will meet with the nominator to revisit the nomination.
- B. Creekside Park Grove of Ponderosa Pines:** Boero summarized the Creekside nomination. The trees are nominated for their size, age and vigor. Boero noted the nomination meets the criteria of being an identifiable landmark in a community, but the association with the McKenzie Trail, Euro-American settlement or the Santiam Wagon Road may be firmer. The indigenous connection would need to be more articulated with support from the tribes. Boero recommended bolstering the direct historical events that made an association to the broad pattern of history. Hogan noted that the structure of the stand may be unique because the size and spacing of those trees aren't seen frequently these days due to logging. Oxford reiterated that old growth Ponderosa pine is rare these days, yet Karpis noted this stand is not the best example of a relic flora. The committee discussed that the tree across

the highway from the park is a true “Yellow belly” – which conveys a significant association. The committee appreciated their location in a public park. Boero noted the dearth of ponderosas in the Sisters Ranger District. The committee determined interest in the nomination, but stated that they need more information. Karps added that there may need to be a future conversation about changes to the program’s criteria. Hogan suggested forest type could be a potential criterion. Hedberg suggested setting up a meeting with the nominators, walking them through the questions that came up, and crafting a 70-word statement together. Hedberg, Oxford, Boero, McConnell, and Hogan volunteered.

Oxford motioned to form a subcommittee to work with the nominators to further the nomination. McConnell seconded. 11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Hogan- yes; Karps- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes; Boero-yes.

- C. Stack Park Grove:** Oxford summarized the nomination. Dr. Stack was a prominent medical professional and contributor to greenspace work in Redmond, including the creation of the local garden club and starting what became the Stack Park Grove. He was given the Great Redmond Citizen honor. Oxford noted more information about the trees would be helpful, and more documentation of the facts shared in the nomination, such as which trees he planted. The committee discussed the potential connection between urban forestry and public health and crafting landscapes under localized environmental conditions. The committee discussed whether there is a story that meets statewide significance, reviewed the criteria, and discussed the difference between a localized story with a connection to a broad pattern of Oregon history versus only a local story. Wolf suggested focusing on one tree rather than the grove.

Oxford motioned to table the nomination to get more information about the trees and in-depth narrative to connect with broader history. Tocchini seconded. 11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Hogan- yes; Karps- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes; Boero-yes.

- D. Clatskanie Redwood:** Dehn summarized the nomination. The Tichenor family, well-known in the area, built the house on the property where the tree is located. The nominators submitted a timeline of the Tichenor family. Dehn requested more information about the connection between the Tichenors and the tree and/or the tree and the house as that significance wasn’t clear in the nomination. The nominators did not provide additional information.

Tocchini motioned to vote on the nomination. McConnell seconded. All those in favor of the nomination- 0-11. Hedberg- nay; Tocchini- nay; Hogan- nay; Karps- nay; McConnell- nay; McKnight- nay; Oxford- nay; Palmer- nay; Ramstad- nay; Wolf- nay; Boero- nay.

End of Life/ In Memoriam Guide & Value Statement – Agenda items held for next meeting due to lack of time.

Old Business: Hedberg reported that he began drafting text for the Vanport trees and will work with the Vanport Mosaic and Vanport Placemaking staff with the goal of a dedication during the Vanport Mosaic Festival in May.

Updates & Reports / New Business

- a. **New Business:** The committee discussed scheduling a spring meeting in April to continue discussions and plan for the dedication. Dehn reminded the committee the Heritage Tree Awards are due February 14.
- b. **TIC/Council Update:** McConnell reported that the Council recently completed a 365-degree review of Director Lynde's first year at TIC. The Council has full confidence in his work. The Council also worked through Administrative Rules for the Sign Program.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 10 , 2026
- July 10, 2026
- October 9, 2026

Adjourned at 3:09 p.m.