



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

MINUTES

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, October 10, 2025
Hybrid Meeting TIC Office, Salem

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Chair (virtual); Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; Nancy Appling; 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

TIC Staff Participants: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/ Introductions: Hedberg called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Hedberg proposed a correction to line four of the New Member Application. *Oxford moved to approve the July 11 & August 25, 2025 minutes as corrected. McConnell seconded. 10-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Hogan- yes; Karpis- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes. Appling -abstained. Boero was off camera at the time of the vote with no sound being recorded in the transcript.*

Heritage Tree Nominations:

A. Ladd Park Blue Atlas Cedar: Dehn informed the committee of the additional information provided by the City of Carlton and the Yamhill County Historical Society. The Ladds moved to a second home in Carlton in their 50s. By this point, they were already multi-millionaires in Portland. The Ladds did not donate the land for the park. The city purchased the land from the Hoffman family in 1921. Sarah Ladd is credited for starting the Carlton Community Foundation. She did donate \$1500 to build the fountain located in the park in honor of her husband. Original plans for the park designed by Samuel Lancaster and dated 1930 were found. Dehn said she was unable to find any connection between the park documentation and the nominated tree. The committee reviewed the provided photographs looking for evidence of the tree's location and/or age but were unable to locate it. The committee discussed possible connections to the local community or nursery industry.

Appling made a motion to decline the Ladd Park Blue Atlas Cedar nomination for lack of sufficient connection of historical significance to the tree. Ramstad seconded. 11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Appling – yes; Boero- yes; Hogan- yes; Karpis- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes. Wolf was off camera at the time of the vote with no sound being recorded in the transcript.

- B. Ainsworth Linear Arboretum:** Hedberg said that he and Karps had started the process of working on a plan to organize and clarify the rather complex story of the arboretum to submit a revised nomination.
- C. Aloha White Oak:** Dehn said this nomination was received at the end of July and in the time since then she communicated with the nominator several times. The nomination is for an estimated 120-year-old oak tree. The nominator provided ownership of the land the tree is located on over time, but the nomination does not state a clear historical significance of the tree. Dehn said she was unable to contact the Washington County Museum for further information because it has closed. The committee discussed two other White Oaks already in the program and their story or historical significance.

Tocchini made a motion to decline the Aloha White Oak due to being unable to find historical or state significance. Ramstad seconded.

Karps suggested the committee expand its advertising to better explain what the committee is looking for in tree nominations. Oxford suggested she could get together with a few committee members to write some clarifying language. Ramstad and Karps were suggested as possible volunteers.

11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Appling – yes; Boero- yes; Hogan- yes; Karps- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes. Wolf was off camera at the time of the vote with no sound being recorded in the transcript.

Old Business:

- A. Vanport:** Wolf said the letter of support from the acting director of Portland Parks was signed and submitted to our committee. With this final step, the Vanport Heritage Trees dedication can begin planning. Dehn will reach out to Hedberg, Wolf, Ramstad and Ed Washington to begin crafting of the plaque text. Hedberg volunteered to coordinate an introduction for Dehn to the organizers of the Vanport Mosaic with a possible dedication during the festival on Memorial Day weekend. Wolf said that the park manager recommended placing the plaque for the tree near existing signage or closer to more populated paths as a deterrent to possible vandalism. The committee discussed possible locations for the tree plaque.
- B. Drake Ponderosa Pines:** Dehn reported at the last meeting that Bend Parks & Rec sent an update that one of the three Drake Ponderosa Pines had to be removed due to a bug infestation. Dehn informed the committee that a second ponderosa has been removed since the last meeting. Only one of the three trees remains, but the remaining one is not in good health. Dehn will keep the committee updated.

End of Life/ In Memoriam Conversation: Oxford said that in her recent work with the local community around the Owen Cherry Tree she began to consider how the program can help with or inform communities about options for when a heritage tree comes to the end of its life cycle. Oxford noted that conversations like this have brought up questions, such as: is a sapling or other trees propagated from a designated tree also a heritage tree? Other topics discussed were what to do with the plaque of the deceased tree, suggestions for possible propagation of a heritage tree, what to do with the wood from the tree, and the possibility of end-of-life celebrations for tree that fall or have to come down for safety reasons. Oxford said that she would reach

out to the committee with possible meeting times for those members who would like to continue the conversation and begin creating this resource.

Appling encouraged members to go visit or check in with the landowners of our current tree roster.

Heritage Tree Program Values Statement: Hedberg shared the current value statement for the Historical Marker Program and discussed how this committee could benefit from creating its own values statement. Hedberg said that these values could help facilitate better nominations from the public and those nominations are evaluated by the committee. Oxford shared her support for the creation of a values statement.

Oxford made a motion for the Heritage Tree Committee to create a value statement. Karps seconded. 11-0 Vote. Hedberg- yes; Tocchini- yes; Appling – yes; Boero- yes; Hogan- yes; Karps- yes; McConnell- yes; McKnight- yes; Oxford- yes; Palmer -yes; Ramstad-yes. Wolf was off camera at the time of the vote with no sound being recorded in the transcript

Hedberg, Oxford, Ramstad, McConnell, Karps, and Tocchini volunteered to be part of the committee to craft a draft values statement. Staff will reach out to set up a time for the volunteers to meet.

Outreach: Dehn said that the Dallas Public Library reached out to her on a possible nomination for a London Planetree on their property. They are currently looking into potential history of the tree. Tocchini informed Dehn of a 150-year-old Ponderosa Pine at the 1855 Tigard-Rogers House in Southeast Portland. Dehn said there is no active research being conducted at this time, but we are keeping it as a potential nomination in the idea arboretum. Oxford said that she would share outreach materials with the five ODF community assistance foresters to hand out as they visit the local municipalities in their regions. Other possible Heritage Tree Nominations: The grove of Cedars of Lebanon at Mount Angel Abbey, Ah Hee diggings outside of the Granite on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, possible ponderosas at the Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson Homestead, Flowering cherries at the Japanese American Historical Plaza.

Annual Training- Discrimination & Harassment Free Workplace: 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:** McConnell said that the transportation bill was signed by the Governor. TIC is scheduled to receive an additional \$3,000,000 in funding July 1, 2026.
- b. **Reports from Members:** Palmer invited committee members to attend the Oregon Heritage Boards and Committee meeting in Canby on Friday. Hedberg informed the committee that he had been interviewed by KPTV about the PSU Copper Beach Tree as part of their series on America 250.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 9 , 2026
- July 10, 2026
- October 9, 2026

Adjourned at 3:09 p.m.