



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

MINUTES
Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Friday, July 11, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
TIC Office, Salem

Committee Participants: David Hedberg, Chair (virtual); Al Tocchini, Vice-Chair; (virtual); Jennifer Karps (virtual); Molly McKnight; Brittany Oxford; Kristin Ramstad; Kristine McConnell; Samantha Wolf (virtual).

Excused: Arne Nyberg; Nancy Appling, Mike Hogan

TIC Staff Participants: Beth Dehn, Jessica Carbone

Guests: Jim Gersbach

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: *Tocchini moved to approve the January 10 & March 3, 2025 minutes. Oxford seconded. 7-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; McConnell-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford- yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.*

Elections: *McConnell moved to accept Hedberg as chair and Tocchini as vice-chair for a one-year term. McKnight seconded. 7-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; McConnell-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford- yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.*

McConnell moved to renew McKnight for a three-year term. Oxford seconded. 7-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini-yes; McConnell-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford- yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.

New Member Applications: Hedberg and Dehn introduced new member applications from Mike Boero and Carol Palmer. Hedberg noted that he knows Mike Boero from working with him on the Williamson Abbot Expedition Tree and Boero is a great archaeologist who does a lot of community collaborative work that would benefit the committee. He is also a member of the forest service and active in central Oregon. Dehn said she knows of Palmer's work through the Canby Women's Trail and Palmer will bring an understanding of untold history and involving students and the community in the program. Oxford and Tochinni discussed the importance of both candidates' background in historical research.

Oxford moved to accept Mike Boero and Carol Palmer as committee members for three-year terms. Ramstad seconded. 7-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; McConnell-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford- yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes.

Karps joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- A. **Vanport:** Wolf updated the committee that she sent a draft letter of support to the acting director of Portland Parks for signature, which is pending. The city forester has already signed off. Hedberg and Wolf will discuss the location of the marker after the letter of support is completed.
- B. **Henry Hornbeam at Ainsworth Linear Arboretum:** Gersbach joined the meeting to share additional background information on the tree and arboretum. The committee discussed if this is the best tree to represent the arboretum, if the specimen trees in the arboretum have increased what's accessible to the public in local nurseries, how this project supports the Olmstead goal of parks and parkways in the 21st century, and how to connect the tree of a particular tree to the larger landscape the tree is part of. Gersbach will rework nomination with more information, resubmit, and committee will hold a special meeting in August to review.
- C. **Ladd Park Blue Atlas Cedar:** Dehn presented the nomination. The committee noted a discrepancy in timing within the nomination. The committee asked Dehn to communicate with nominators on whether there is a connection to Ladd & Bush Bank, correct the timeline, clarify the significance of the family's connection to Carlton, and do other general fact checking.

Old Business:

- a. **JQA Young House Dedication:** Dehn thanked Hedberg, Ramstad and Wolf for writing the text for the plaque, which is in production. The dedication is planned as part of the Cedar Mill Cider Fest on Sunday, September 21st. The full event is 12-4 p.m., with the tree dedication anticipated around 1pm. More information will come.
- b. **Riding Whip Tree:** The committee reviewed images of the current condition of the tree and determined it is dead. The committee discussed community engagement around heritage trees as they age and end their lives. The committee requested a way to honor past heritage trees on the website.

Oxford moved to remove the Riding Whip Tree from marketing efforts and into the In Memoriam category. McConnell seconded. 8-0 Vote. Hedberg-yes; Tocchini- yes; McConnell-yes; McKnight-yes; Oxford- yes; Ramstad-yes; Wolf- yes; Karps- yes.

- c. **Drake Ponderosa Pines:** Dehn reported that Bend Parks & Rec sent an update that one of the three Drake Ponderosa Pines had to be removed due to a bug infestation. A second may need to be removed in the future. Dehn asked that they move the plaque near the remaining tree and keep the committee informed.
- d. **Cottage Grove Incense Cedar:** Dehn received a call from the former nominator asking for further discussion. Dehn will communicate with the nominator on other potential stories in Cottage Grove.

Outreach/30th Anniversary Check-in: Dehn shared that she gained access to Travel Oregon's asset database and is updating visitor information on the state heritage trees, including refreshed images and connections to nearby attractions. The committee discussed the health of the Ewing Young Oak Tree.

Updates & Reports / New Business

- a. **TIC/Council Update:** Carbone shared that TIC is working through both long- and short-term planning as the legislature didn't pass a transportation bill.
- b. **Reports from Members:**

Oxford: Asked for future discussion about failing heritage tree planning and memorials, given her recent work with the City of Eugene on the Owen Cherry Tree.

Adjourned at 3:09 p.m.