

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn Express, Astoria
Friday, October 16, 2015
1:00 pm

Committee Participants:

Jennifer Karps
Molly McKnight
Ed Washington

Nancy Appling
Tim Nitz

Craig Leech
Al Tocchini

Absent:

Roger Brandt
Doug Gafe

Charlotte Lehan
Paul Ries

Arne Nyberg

Guests:

Kristin Ramstad, ODF

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

Arne convened the meeting at 1:15pm

- 1. Self-introductions were made.**
- 2. Minutes:** Tim made a motion to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes. Jennifer 2nd; motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Heritage Tree Nominations:**
There were no new nominations submitted. Nancy encouraged all the committee members to step-up and look for new trees.
- 4. Statewide Heritage Tree Dedication**
Currently, the Philander Lee Tree is the only member of the 2016 class of heritage trees. After discussion, the committee decided to table the decision on the location of the April 2016 dedication until the January meeting to see if any other nominations would be added to the class.
- 5. Heritage Tree Maintenance Grant Request**
Molly introduced a grant request from Rick Cook, owner of the Shipley-Cook Grove. Tim moved the committee fund the submitted application, up-to \$500.00 on a one-to-one basis, but the committee declined funding work on the Black Locust due to lacking information on the effectiveness of the treatment. Molly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee suggested changes to the grant form. Annie will send out an updated form to the committee.

Jennifer moved that the committee set an annual maximum of \$1000.00 be awarded in any calendar year, with a \$500.00 annual maximum given to any individual. The grants will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. First-time applicants will be prioritized with priority given to trees in fair to good health with a focus on optimizing health rather than increasing length of demise. Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Maynard Drawson Award 2016:** Annie handed out the updated 2016 award form. She will also email the document to all committee members. Annie encouraged the committee to use their networks to spread the word about the award. The deadline for nominations is January 29, 2016.
7. **Old Business:**
- a. **Heritage Tree Survey:** Tim offered to check up on the Wheeler Elm. The owners have not responded to letters and postcards the committee has sent and the phone number on file is not current.
8. **Updates & Reports/New Business:**
- a. **OTE/Council Report:** Ed said he did not have much to report. The next Council meeting is on Oct. 19 and 20th in Ashland.
 - b. **Oregon Heritage Conference Participation:** SHIPO sent out a request for topics for the 2016 Heritage Conference. Annie suggested a presentation on how to start a local heritage tree program. The committee could also offer walking tours of the four Oregon Heritage Trees near the Capitol grounds. Kristin suggested the committee participate in the Annual Urban Forestry Conference in June at the World Forestry Center.
 - c. **Local Heritage Tree Program Development:** Nancy said she would like to see the committee revitalize the effort to encourage the development of local tree programs. Kristin said she has seen these programs fall out of favor due to issues of changing private ownership of the trees and maintenance issues. She said the Tree City USA awards encourage the formation of tree committees and perhaps through this venue interest in tree programs could be revived.
 - d. **Reports from Members:** Annie reported the Grove of the States Restoration Project is moving forward and Friends of Trees has signed on to be a partner in the project.
- Craig reported that the park manager for Willson Park at the Capitol does not want to nominate the Camperdown Elms. OPRD is concerned the trees will need to be moved when the Capitol's earthquake retrofitting finally moves forward. Craig said OPRD received a complaint about the condition of the moon tree on the Capitol grounds. They will try to remove the trees surrounding the moon tree to reduce crowding. Craig will work with Paul Ries to write a recommendation to DAS about care of the Moon Tree.
- Craig reported he spoke with the park manager for Coquille Myrtle Grove wayside. The heritage tree sign for the site will be produced and installed by spring, 2016.
- He also reported that a National Geographic photographer visited the Witness Tree for a possible story for the March 2017 issue. The photographer was working on an article about trees that tell stories.
9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be January 15, 2015 at the OTE office in Salem.
10. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.