

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
OTE Office, Salem
Friday, January 15, 2016
1:00 pm

Committee Participants:

Jennifer Karps	Nancy Appling	Craig Leech
Al Tocchini	Ed Washington	Arne Nyberg
Molly McKnight via Teleconference		

Absent:

Roger Brandt	Charlotte Lehan	Tim Nitz
Doug Grafe	Paul Ries	

Guests:

Kristin Ramstad, ODF

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Jessica Carbone	Maddie MacGregor
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Arne convened the meeting at 1:15pm

- 1. Self-introductions were made.** Annie introduced new staff member Jessica.
- 2. Minutes:** Nancy made a motion to approve the Oct 16, 2015 minutes. Kristin made note that her name is spelled with an "in." Al seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Heritage Tree Nominations:**

There were no new nominations submitted. There is a possible nomination coming for a Magnolia at the McCall House that was planted in memory of the family's daughter's death. Nancy encouraged all the committee members to step-up and look for new trees. Nancy also mentioned a news article in the Ashland newspaper, "The Daily Tidings," and a mis-quoting of her nominating trees in Lithia Park. Nancy has not looked into nominating trees in the park, but the committee discussed the possibility of future nominations. The park has a wide tourist draw. Lithia Park's architect also designed Golden Gate Park. Nancy will research the history of the trees and report back to the committee.
- 4. Statewide Heritage Tree Dedication**

Currently, the Lee Oak Tree is the only member of the 2016 class of heritage trees. The statewide dedication is usually held the first Friday in April. The April 8, 2016 dedication will be held in Canby at 1:00 p.m. Annie will contact the city of Canby. Please note that Portland is going to celebrate Arbor Day the last Saturday in April.
- 5. Heritage Tree Maintenance Grant Request**

Annie started the conversation about providing grants for arbor care. It looks like we will be able to approve Rick Cook's request for funds for arbor care. There was open discussion. The problem is that there is a lot of ambiguity about how the fund was set up, due to lack of documentation. It was originally set up as an endowment, but has not gained any interest because interest rates have been low. OTE Accounting is researching our responsibility for it. Members should be thinking about how we want to use the fund going forward.

The \$2,500 dollars that was given for the Nyberg Chestnut, Arne said, was not intended as an endowment. \$1,200 used originally plus \$500 for the Riding Whip Tree. He believes there should be \$800 dollars left.

6. Maynard Drawson Award 2016: No nominations have been received to date. Arne suggested that the last recipient should serve on the committee for the next award. The Committee discussed potential sources for nominations. Clarification of criteria for nomination was discussed. The subcommittee for nominations is Jenn, Al and Craig.

7. S.W.O.T. Analysis

Threats-

- Apathy - Nancy worried about people staying motivated to continue finding and nominating new trees.
- Staff continuance – This is a concern and is something OTE is planning for.
- Health/longevity of the trees - Jenn stated the importance of finding the trees before they are gone. Arne suggested that age should not be a main requirement. Maybe looking toward the future, we should be proactive by planting a graft or “sister tree” from the original.
- Property ownership or the change of ownership – Al said that keeping the program in the public eye and having frequent contact with property owners could be a solution. Annie will look into the percentage of trees on public vs. private property. Also, she will look into putting that information in the database and updating contact information.
- Funding - Jenn stated funding is always a concern.
- Revisiting our criteria – Ed suggested that it should be something that we look at possibly every five years to keep current.

Opportunities –

- Reaching out – Kristin suggested having meetings in cities that have their own tree programs and asking for a tour. This could help us find new possible trees to nominate. Create a “Treasure hunt.” Kristin made suggestions about contacting other tree groups. There was a Heritage Tree passport suggestion and writing articles for local papers.
- Advertise Heritage Tree visits as family and/or education activity - 4th graders study Oregon history. We could send a cover letter and one page curriculum with brochures about how to talk to students about Heritage Trees. Committee members could be recommended as guest speakers.
- Maddie’s connections have made an opportunity for a PR class at Willamette’s graduate school of management to develop a possible PR program for us, including both Heritage Trees and Historical Markers. Included in this program would be a way to reach out to and educate children.
- ORFI may be a resource because of their educational satellite program. They are based in Portland, but they have a satellite at the Oregon Garden. How would it be funded? Annie said it would be OTE or the endowment fund. Nancy does not what to use the endowment fund. It might be more cost effective not to use standard mail. The brochure can be accessed online. We need to look into getting ideas for hands on activities that get kids interested.
- The Oregon Heritage Conference will be held at the Capitol this year. We have been asked to do a Heritage Tree walk around the Capitol. There were inquires to see if there were any interested members to guide tour groups and inform them about the program
- Jessica suggested traveling trunks or kits associated with a tree or place to give kids a little more hands-on education.
- Kristin suggested attending the Annual Urban Forestry Conference on June 2. They would love to have us there. The theme at this year’s conference is “Maintaining Magnificence,” maintaining large trees in urban areas. There could be an opportunity to sit on a panel. Jenn will be there and help represent us. Paul and Annie could be there as well. Having an information table at the conference was suggested as an option.

Where do you want to be in three years?

- Molly wants us to have greater movement on education.
- Nancy would like to see at least four accepted nominations a year.
- Jenn suggested to make “an ask” from the public. “We are looking for a heritage Juniper.”
- We could contact cemeteries and vineyards owners. Charlotte would be our contact with cemeteries. Ed recommended Riverview Cemetery as possible site. It has a Founders Grove. Jenn informed the committee about the search for an Abigail Scott Duniway tree there a few years ago.
- Would it possible to find a way to access the Berry Conservatory? Leech Botanical could also be a place to find possible trees.
- Ed suggested the Vanport golf course. It has young trees, but is associated with important history.
- Geocaching – Something we pursued, but never worked out. A lot of our sites are already geocaches. Many cities and counties have started their own geocaching tours for tourism. The Committee feels like this is something we should continue to pursue. Annie will explore new resources to try starting this again.

8. Old Business:

None.

9. Updates & Reports/New Business:

- OTE/Council Report:** Ed said he did not have much to report. The Council has formed a new Rest Area Subcommittee. He encouraged members of the Historical Marker Committee to join the Heritage Tree Committee meetings. The next Marker Committee meeting is February 9, 2016 at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland
- Oregon Heritage Conference Participation:** The Oregon Heritage Conference is scheduled for May 4 – 6. It is based around the Capitol building. Annie was asked to facilitate a workshop on Heritage Tourism.
- Reports from Members:** Craig reports that the State Parks has not started cutting any trees at the Capitol near the Moon Tree. He will follow up on the article in the National Geographic about the Witness Tree. He would like picture of the plaque of the Myrtle Wood Grove and will ask the Park Manager to send one.

Molly recommended ghost towns as a possible place to look for trees. She reminded the committee, that our 20th anniversary of the Heritage Tree program is this year. It would be good to mention the anniversary in Deep Roots.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be April 8, 2016. Site is TBA.

11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.