

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem, OR
Friday, January 24, 2014
2:00 pm

Committee Participants:

Nancy Appling
Jennifer Karps
Charlotte Lehan
Tim Nitz
Paul Ries
Ed Washington

Roger Brandt
Craig Leech
Molly McKnight
Arne Nyberg
Al Tocchini

Absent:

George Forbes

Doug Grafe

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

Jenn Smith

Al Tocchini, Chair, convened the meeting at 2:02 pm

1. Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of October 18, 2013 Minutes: Arne made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Nancy^{2nd}; motion passed unanimously.

3. Pending Heritage Tree nominations:

- a. **Ellmaker Oak/Maples:** Al said he went back and re-visited the trees and believes they do have heritage importance because of the early settlement and the statehood of Oregon. Many people that lived in the area had local, state and national significance. For example, Elder Ellmaker was asked to be the running-mate of James Monroe. Additional, Al said he could positively identify the specific oak tree. He requested the committee reconsider the nomination but as a grove this time.

Al made a motion to consider the grove. Roger 2nd.

After some discussion and verification that the Friends of Zumwalt Park would take care of the trees, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Lewelling nomination:** Molly said she did not have any new information. Paul said he would follow up with the Clackamas Community College since they have a Lewelling tree. Molly said she would follow up as well.
- c. **Maxville nomination:** Tim reviewed the history of Maxville. He said there are 2 very large ponderosas on the “white” side of town. He said he thinks the Committee should keep it on the radar, but it will be a while until it can be determined if any of the trees have historical importance. The Committee agreed.
- d. **Oregon myrtle and Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs:** Nancy reported she has not found a grove that is “stupendous”. Paul said he has a student that may be interested in researching a grove that would work for the program.

4. **Class of 2014 Statewide heritage Tree Dedication:** Paul made a motion to put the Ellmaker Grove into the 2014 class; Nancy 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee agreed the Statewide Dedication would take place on April 11th.

5. **Old business**

- a. **Barlow Road Tollgate Maple wood/ Peter McDonald Memorial Bench:** Arne said the wood has been planked and is still in the works.
- b. **Maynard Drawson Award:** Al said this is still in progress. Paul said they are suggesting a perpetual award plaque. The next steps are developing the criteria and a name for the award. He said they would have a draft of the criteria for the next meeting.
- c. **“Tree-fecta” tour:** Molly said there is nothing new and should probably be taken off the agenda. She thought that perhaps in the future the Committee could create a mini tour.

6. **Updates & Reports/New Business**

- a. **OTE/Council Report:** Ed and Charlotte reported that OTE will be taking on more rest areas on I-5 and I-84 in March. Additionally they are working on a strategic plan.
- b. **Forestry/Tourism project:** Paul reviewed the Forestry Action Plan and the development of Oregon’s to tie it to tourism. It has received a grant, but was in limbo until now. A grad student will be developing tours for his Master’s thesis, but is looking for ideas one being the Heritage Trees. He requested volunteers – Roger offered. The Committee thought it was a great idea.
- c. **Maynards “Founders Seat”:** Paul suggested changing the charter to either 1) keep the position as is and appoint someone else; or 2) remove the seat. Tim suggested keeping the position as honorary for the Maynard Drawson award. Molly 2nd; motion passed unanimously. Staff was asked to draft some language.
- d. **Reports from Members:**

- i. Arne announced the October 17th meeting could be held in Lincoln City again if the group would like.
- ii. Jennifer told the group that April 26th will be celebrated as Arbor Day in Portland.
- iii. Roger found a Brewers spruce in the TJ Howell botanical drive and asked the Committee if they thought it would be a good nomination. The Committee encouraged him to submit it. He also found a tree en route to Crater Lake-a marker to 1,000 springs-that seemed promising. The Committee said a nomination would be great.
- iv. Nancy said she checked on the Owens cherry tree in Eugene and it is fine.
- v. Craig asked for an update on the Grove of the States – Paul and Al have surveyed the board footage. Annie is gathering information with the Rest Area team. It will be done in phases, the first to remove 33 Douglas firs and the state trees that are struggling. Then next steps include re-doing the paths and re-planting the removed trees. The goal is to have a re-dedication in 2017.
- vi. It was announced that Dennis DeVine the owner where the Witness Tree is located has passed away – the Committee would like to send a card.
- vii. Molly said Rick Cook is still working on getting a heritage trail. She told the group that she will be giving a Heritage presentation in Gladstone.
- viii. Tim asked for an update on the educational program. Nancy suggested sending out a letter now and Molly suggested it could go out with the survey and reminders to water the trees.

7. **Next Meeting:** April 11th will be in the statewide dedication at the Ellmaker Grove. The next meeting will be July 18th in Salem; October 17th in Lincoln City and January 13, 2015 in Salem.
8. **Adjourn:** Al adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.