

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Portland State University, Portland, OR
Friday, July 08, 2016
1:00 pm

Committee Participants:

Jennifer Karps	Nancy Appling, Chair	Craig Leech
Al Tocchini	Tim Nitz	Paul Ries
Molly McKnight	Charlotte Lehan	Ed Washington via Teleconference
Nate Pedersen via Teleconference		

Absent:

Roger Brandt	Arne Nyberg, Vice Chair
Doug Grafe	

Guests:

Catherine McNeur, PSU

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Jessica Carbone	Nancy DeSouza
------------------	-----------------	---------------

Convening: Chair Appling called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Self-introductions were made to note attendance for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Tocchini made a motion to approve the January 15, 2016 minutes with no amendments. Karps seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Washington joined the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

PSU Heritage Tree Course:

Catherine McNeur presented the content of her class on Portland Heritage trees at Portland State University. Her class works with the Portland Heritage Tree committee to develop historical research and finding useful ways to use the information and promote the program. Some of the ideas have been walking tours, brochures, app content, pod casts, etc. Von Domitz asked if the program could be expanded to a statewide focus. McNeur replied that the class mainly focuses on Portland trees for accessibility for the students, but the idea is very interesting. Lehan recommended that, during their research, students keep an eye out for trees that they feel rise to a state level nomination. Appling liked the idea of “tree obituaries” for Oregon Heritage Trees.

Committee Elections:

Ries moved to renew Molly McKnight’s committee membership for another three year term. Nitz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lehan moved to accept Nate Pedersen’s application as an at large committee member from Bend. Nitz seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Lehan moved to nominate Arne Nyberg as next year’s committee Chair and Jennifer Karps as Vice Chair. Ries seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- **Drake Homestead Grove:** Pedersen presented his nomination, the Drake Homestead Grove, a grove of three Ponderosa pines, *Pinus ponderosa*. These trees are located in Drake park in downtown Bend. The grove was part of the original Drake homestead, the first house in Bend and can be found in early photos. A.M. Drake purchased the future town site of Bend from Wm. Staats, then platted and sold many lots in what is now downtown. The Drake Homestead Grove stands as a living marker to the establishment of Bend as a city and its founders.

The nomination was seconded by Karps. McKnight said the fact that the Drakes were encouraged to settle the area by the 1894 Federal Carey Act speaks to a greater statewide significance. The committee recommended the following be mentioned on the plaque: the Drake homestead connection to the Carey Act, the location as part of the original homestead that became the City of Bend, and the homestead trees' significance as now-rare old growth. Also of note: Bend was once a logging town and the Ponderosa pine was especially significant to the economy of the region.

Appling called for a vote on the nomination of the Drake Homestead Grove. The nomination was unanimously approved.

- **Tolo Tree:** Appling presented her nomination of the Tolo Tree, a gray pine, *Pinus sabiniana*. After a thorough investigation she was able to find that the tree is currently on rail road owned property. None of her attempts to contact the rail road company have been successful. Ries suggested contacting the local mayor. Von Domitz reminded the committee that before the committee votes on this nomination it would need the permission of the land owner and since the tree nomination references a large amount of tribal history, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services would need to be consulted.

At the request of Washington, the committee suspended the Tolo Tree discussion to cover the Council Report, as Washington had a prior commitment and needed to leave the meeting shortly.

Council Report: Washington reported the Council has been dealing heavily with a legal issue, but the Council is pleased and supportive of the committee's work and direction. DeSouza expressed her gratitude to Lehan, who finished her term on the Council at the end of June. DeSouza praised Lehan for her work on the Council, especially in heritage programs. At the request of Chair Baldwin, Vice-chair Russel and the rest of the Council, DeSouza expressed their gratitude as well.

Washington left the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

- Appling continued her presentation on the Tolo Tree. The species was discovered by David Douglas in 1846. The tree is located in the town of Tolo, near Fort Lane. This tree species has a limited range and does not exist in large numbers. This specific gray pine would serve as a representative example of the species' historic relationship with the people of the region. Von Domitz will help vet the tree's history in cooperation with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. She and DeSouza will try to help make contact with the railroad owners.

Appling requests the committee read the information provided about Frank Callahan as preparation for a future Drawson award nomination.

Heritage Tree Maintenance Grant Fund Update:

Von Domitz reported the committee would not be able to pursue arbor-care grants using the money in the Heritage Tree Fund. The agency determined through conversations with DOJ, that the grants were not an allowable use of the funds. If the committee wanted to set up an entity completely separate from the committee, similar to "Friends of State Parks", it could be done in the future. The money was given, and needs to be used, for public education activities. Nitz asked if there were any regulations that would keep the committee from

spending funds for tree maintenance. Von Domitz replied state funds could not be used on property not owned by the state. Nitz then inquired if there were any regulations preventing the committee setting up a fund through Oregon Community Foundation. Von Domitz replied that there was not, but it would have to use new, completely separate, funds. The existing funds could not be transferred. The committee discussed possible funding options available. Lehan asked what percentage of trees were on private versus public property. Von Domitz and Carbone will have those numbers sent out to the committee.

Maynard Drawson Award 2016 Recap:

Karps gave a small recap of the successful presentation of the Drawson award, to Catherine Mushel, during the Portland Arbor day celebration.

Program Success Metrics:

Von Domitz submitted suggested heritage program success metrics to the committee. These metrics would be shared with the public as a way to show the value of the program. The success of the program would be shown through partner satisfaction, customer service and the value brought to the community. Historical markers have maintenance standards, but the tree program does not own the tree plaques. Partner and volunteer investment would be shown by volunteer time invested in the program and donated funds. The last measurement would be the total number of nominations submitted. This would gauge public awareness of the program. Nitz suggested measuring our public outreach and education. These would be achieved by measuring visits to the website, how many people are reached by public speaking engagements, number of publications distributed, and mentions of the programs in the media. Further conversations brought up possible ways to bring program information into the rest areas. One of the ideas suggested was to create a single page black and white brochure, which displays local area trees on a map, the web address and/or a QR code.

Ries told the committee of his invitation to speak during the Salem Library's week long celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Tree City USA program. Salem has been a member since the beginning. He will be speaking Sept. 22, 2016 on the Heritage Tree program. His invitations lead to a discussion on the need to update the program's power point presentation. Methods of delivery and how to make the presentation adaptable to events were major topics of the discussion. Ries' volunteered his summer intern to work on the project.

Heritage Tree Geo-Caching Tour:

Three years ago, Ries received a grant to fund a project combining Oregon forestry and tourism. The final outcome of the project is a geo-caching tour accessible through the Travel Oregon website. On the site, visitors can find a series of videos and a map of five geo-caching Heritage Tree locations along the Oregon coast. The locations are: Student Planters Grove, Octopus Tree, Giant Spruce of Cape Perpetua, Monterey Pine, Monterey Cypress. Each one of these locations exposes visitors to different forestry topics such as invasive species, working forest, wild fire, etc. There is a short informational video connected to each tree.

Old Business:

At Tocchini's request, von Domitz updated the committee on Grove of the States project. The project has been officially approved by ODOT. There is an RFQ out for Douglas-fir tree removal at the site. The next project team meeting is July 12th. During the meeting the team will discuss moving the project forward, site interpretation and potential sponsorships. Von Domitz thanked Tocchini and Ries for their tremendous work on the project.

Ries would like to nominate the Grove for Heritage Tree status at the October meeting. He suggested changing the date of the rededication from August to April as the site of the statewide dedication. He believes changing the date would lead to more media visibility and participation.

Nitz requested assistance from the committee in finding any information on similar, or Homestead multi-species groves. Knapp suggest the Homestead personal papers.

Updates & Reports/New Business:

OTE/Council Report:

DeSouza continued the Council report started by Washington. Council has been working on a number of projects, but the biggest is securing sustainable and sufficient funding to operate the rest areas. To achieve this, the Council is working with partners to include stable rest area funding as part of a successful transportation package. She also updated the committee on the status of an ongoing lawsuit.

Reports from Members: Lehan informed the committee that since she is no longer a member of OTIC she would like to continue serving in an At-Large Member capacity. Nitz moved to renew Charlotte Lehan's committee membership for another three year term. Ries seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lehan updated the committee on her work on the Bayberry "medicinal" Tree. She asked the committee to be on the lookout for a medicinal tree and a river tie-off tree.

McKnight informed the council that our "Big Tree" Ponderosa Pine became the national champion.

Pedersen is working on four future nominations, the Pine Tavern tree, Juniper trees in the Badlands, a target tree along the old wagon road, and some Cy Bingham trees in the Cascades.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be October 14, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., at the OTE offices in Salem.
The January Meeting will be January 13, 2016 in Wilsonville, Oregon.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.