

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Bend, Oregon
Tuesday, July 11, 2017
1:20 pm

Committee Participants:

Arne Nyberg, Chair
Jennifer Karps
Molly McKnight

Nancy Appling
Nate Pedersen
Al Tocchini

Ed Washington
Charlotte Lehan

Absent:

Roger Brandt

Kristin Ramstad

Craig Leech

Guests:

Katie Lompa

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz

Nancy DeSouza

Convening:

Chair Nyberg called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. Self-introductions were made to note attendance for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Karps made a motion to approve the February 17, 2017 minutes with no amendments. McKnight seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Lehan moved to nominate Jennifer Karps as committee Chair and Kristin Ramstad as Vice Chair. Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Tim Nitz has elected to not renew his term the committee as the Eastern Oregon representative. There are two open committee seats that can be filled. The committee discussed the need to find representatives from Eastern Oregon.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- A. Pacific Madrone-Corvallis:** Tocchini reported about his visit to the madrone tree with Kristin Ramstad. The tree is in good health. Edith Yang was the first minority woman architect in Oregon. She was also a pioneer of street tree planting. Edith designed the landscape to fit the architecture of the house she created and the madrone is a major focal feature in the landscape. The landscaping was cared for primarily by her husband Hoya Yang. Hoya was a prominent food scientist at OSU and was instrumental in the development of maraschino cherries and was an active participant in the creation of the Oregon Wine Board.

The committee agreed that both Edith and Hoya Yang made significant contributions to the state. Both Tocchini and Ramstad strongly support the nomination.

Tocchini made a motion to approve the nomination of the Yang Madrone. Lehan seconded the motion. The nomination was approved unanimously.

- B. McCall House Magnolia:** Since the sponsor for this nomination, Nancy Appling, was unable to attend, the committee decided to table this nomination until the next meeting.
- C. Suttle Lake Apple Tree:** Pedersen introduced the nomination for the apple tree located in the Santiam Pass, just above Suttle Lake. The committee noted that Maynard Drawson, the founder of the Oregon Heritage Tree program, loved this tree and included it in volume four of “Treasures of the Oregon Country” book. There are at least four different origin stories for how the apple came to be located at this high elevation spot and it is impossible to know for sure if any of them are true. The apple type has not been officially identified either. Von Domitz reported the committee members who carpooled from Salem stopped at the tree on the way to the meeting. The tree is located on a steep slope/ cliff on the side of the highway overlooking Suttle Lake. There is no safe way to view the tree up close and we wouldn’t want to do anything that would encourage people to climb over the guard rail. Safety would be an issue when determining how to sign for this tree. Pedersen will try to find someone to help identify the apple type. The committee agreed to table this nomination for the next meeting in October.

Old Business:

Grove of the States report: von Domitz reported OTE staff has a plan in place to protect the Grove of the States from damage that could be caused by crowds arriving to view the eclipse. She also reported the restoration is going well. Kristin Ramstad has volunteered to take care of three trees that are too small to plant. The six missing the trees should be in the ground in a couple of years, once they have sufficiently grown. New signs have been designed and are being produced by the same company that makes the Oregon Heritage Tree plaques. OTE received a grant from Oregon Department of Forestry to help fund an interpretive panel for the Grove. The dedication event will be held at 1:00pm on Monday, August 28, 2017, which is the 50th Anniversary of the Grove.

New Business:

Tetherow Grove nomination: von Domitz reported she received a new nomination for a grove in Redmond. It did not arrive in time to be included in this meeting agenda. Pedersen and Katie Lompa volunteered to research the nomination for the October meeting.

OTE Council Report: Washington reported the Council has elected new officers. Bob Russell is the new Council chair and Washington is the new vice-chair. Washington said he always encourages his fellow Council members to attend the heritage tree and historical marker events, so they can see first-hand the important contributions the committee members provide to the state.

DeSouza reported the transportation bill that was passed by the legislature this year provides almost 30 million dollars to support and improve rest areas. Eight more rest areas were transferred to OTE management, including three from State Parks. The rest areas will be transitioned to OTE over a two-year period. DeSouza said OTE will be focusing on infrastructure and aesthetic improvements to interiors, but will also work hard to make the landscaping pleasant for travelers.

Reports from Committee Members:

- Nyberg reported that Brian French has been working with him to take care of the Nyberg Chestnut. French told Nyberg the recent droughts have been hard on the tree, but it is retrenching and should be fine. They may have to trim the dead sections. He said the tree is looking better than last year.
- Von Domitz reminded committee members to start thinking about nominations for the 2018 Maynard Drawson Award. She will be sending out the new nomination form.

- Katie Lompa has some ideas for potential Eastern Oregon representatives for the committee and will follow up with von Domitz
- Von Domitz invited the committee members to join the historical marker committee at a volunteer appreciation luncheon in Salem on August 8th at noon.
- Pedersen said he is working with an archeologist at the Forest Service to identify a living Cy Bingham tree to nominate for the program.

Next Meeting:

October 27- Geer Crest Farm, Silverton, OR (1:00pm- 3:00pm)

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.