

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 19, 2018
1:00 pm
OTE Offices, 1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97302

Committee Participants:

Kristin Ramstad, Vice-Chair	Nancy Appling-Salucci	Arne Nyberg
Molly McKnight	Charlotte Lehan	Craig Leech
Ed Washington	Al Tocchini	Nate Pedersen

Absent:

Roger Brandt Jennifer Karps

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz, Jessica Carbone, Jim Denno

Convening:

Vice- Chair Ramstad called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Self-introductions were made to note attendance for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Appling moved to approve the minutes with the correction of “coumarate” to “commemorate” in the last line of the McCall Magnolia paragraph. Lehan seconded the motion.
Ayes: 8; No:0; Abstain: 1 The motion passed.

Maynard Drawson Award:

Von Domitz informed the committee that there had been no nominations received for the 2018 award nominations are due January 26. Tocchini spoke to who Maynard Drawson was and the background of why the award was created.

Heritage Tree Nominations:

- **GeerCrest Grove:** Appling said it was a very strong nomination. The committee discussed the health of the trees, the Grove’s connections to the first of the Willamette Valley’s non-native settlement and the Luelling-Meek connection to the establishment of the modern fruit growing industry in Oregon.

Molly McKnight joined the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Tocchini made a motion to approve the adoption of the GeerCrest Grove for Heritage Tree status. Leech seconded the nomination. The motion was unanimously passed.

Old Business:

Apple Tree: Von Domitz informed the committee that the Forest Service supports the nomination, but the safety of any person who might want to stop and see the tree is a concern. Nyberg supports the nomination and feels the story is important to tell. The committee discussed placing the plaque for the tree at a safer, more visible location at Suttle lake. Annie will reach out to the ODOT district office for their recommendation.

Open Committee Seats:

Von Domitz has not heard from David Headburg about his interest in joining the committee. There is still an open seat to represent Eastern Oregon. The Council discussed possible groups to contact for possible contacts. McKnight informed the committee that she has resigned from Clackamas County and can no longer hold the county representative seat. But there is the possibility for her predecessor, Samantha Wolf, to take fill that position.

Updates & Reports/ New Business:

OTE Council Report: Washington said that Agency has welcomed a new Executive Director and introduced Jim Denno. He also said the Council will have a new member from the Bend area.

Reports from Committee Members:

- Leech said that the Witness tree did not make it into the National Geographic article. ODOT has targeted about 20 trees near the Coquille Myrtle Grove for removal due to a safety concern. The main trees that form the grove are set back from the targeted trees and should not be affected.
- Lehan presented pictures of a cable tree from log rafts along the Willamette River in Wilsonville. She would like to use this tree to represent the importance of the story of “cable trees”, which were used to secure log rafts during the height of the lumber industry. Lehan expressed a desire to find a walnut tree or grove to represent the story of the failure of the Walnut industry in Oregon. Leech asked Lehan if there was any further information about the possibility of a speaking event at the McMinnamins in Wilsonville. Lehan replied she had no further information, but she would continue to consider possible dates.
- Von Domitz updated the committee on the status of the wood from the fallen Hinds Walnut. ODOT has reserved us three logs. The OTE Sign Crew offered to move it for us to a storage spot at French Prairie, but it is not an idea location. Leech said that Oregon State Parks has made arrangements with Oregon Correction Enterprises to store their wood and they could take our wood as well. OCE is also able to mill and plane the wood. With the option available to save the wood, a gift to the Capital made from these historic trees may be possible.
- Pedersen said that during a speaking event, he became aware of a possible tree nomination from McMinnville. He is expecting to present the nomination at the next meeting.
- Ramstad said Oregon Community Trees has put together a tour of the seed orchard. The tour will also include a tour of the Grove of the States. She gave an update of the health of the Grove the States trees she is caring for. The Annual Urban and Community Forestry Conference will be June 7, 2018 in Portland, Or. She has received a grant from the Federal Forest Service to create a cloud based platform to map and inventory trees.
- Von Domitz asked the committee to recommit having all nominations for the upcoming year’s class of trees be approved by the October meeting in order to have time to include them in the newsletter.

Next Meeting:

April 6, 2018 – The McCall House -Ashland, Or
July – Yang Dedication - Corvallis, Or
October - The GeerCrest Dedication – Salem, Or

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.