

Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2004
Decker Writing Center, SOU, Ashland, Oregon

Present: Al Tocchini (Chair), Arne Nyberg (Vice Chair), Nancy Appling, Maynard Drawson, Tony Dorsch, Doug Grafe, Josh Ingle, Fred Nilsen, Paul Ries, Lowell Tiller

Absent: Excused: Amy Gillette, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Pat Moran, Walt Schroeder

Staff: Jim Renner

Guests: Sharon McCann, Robbin Pearce

1. Introductions

Al Tocchini called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Committee members and guests made self-introductions.

2. Approval of 1/23/04 meeting minutes

Arne moved that the minutes be accepted; Doug seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Committee Elections

A. Term Expirations

Al announced that terms were expiring for Amy Jo Waldo, Peter McDonald, Tony Dorsch and Nancy Appling. Jim reported that all except for Amy Jo have requested re-election. Jim was directed by the committee to ask Molly McKnight and Tom Ortman if they would be interested in seeking the county position being vacated by Amy Jo. Jim also reported that the committee members holding annual appointments from their respective state agencies (Paul Ries, Amy Gillette, Pat Moran, and Lowell Tiller) had all received approval to serve another year.

Arne moved for re-election of the slate of candidates; Paul seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Officers

Paul moved that Arne be elected as Committee Chair; Lowell seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Al moved that Paul be elected as Committee Vice-Chair; Arne seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Mitchell Monument, Fremont Natl Forest

The nomination was submitted by the Bly Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest; seconded by Maynard. Nancy visited the site and reported it is in good condition with the exception of the cherry trees which are in decline, some of which are dead and others damaged by deer. A paved road provides good access to the site. There is a stone monument with a brass plaque that reads, "Dedicated to those who died here May 5, 1945 by Japanese bomb explosion...the only place on the American continent where death resulted from enemy action during World War II". Discussion was given to whether the cherry trees should be included with the historic Ponderosa Pine that was scarred by bomb shrapnel. Paul amended the motion to be for the shrapnel damaged Ponderosa Pine only; the amendment was approved. The question was called to approve the Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Poplar Tree, Aumsville

The nomination was submitted by the private property owner; seconded by Arne. Al visited the site. The tree is a very large Lombardy poplar measuring 22' in circumference and standing 130' tall. It is located along a county road near Shaw and may be associated with history of the parcel's 1880 Donation Land Claim. Discussion was given to whether the tree has sufficient state significance. The question was called to approve the nomination; the motion failed. Jim was directed by the committee to refer the tree to the Marion County Heritage Tree program for consideration.

C. Bark Stripped Cedars, Mt. Hood Natl Forest

The nomination was submitted by the Barlow Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest; seconded by Arne. This grove of Western red cedars was visited by Arne and Al. With some difficulty, the site was found after a climb down to the trees. The Forest Service has proposed building a trail to the trees; some survey flagging was noted. Arne and Al observed a dozen of the 26 trees nominated as a grove; Al did not think that the peelings looked more than fifty years old. Discussion was given to whether this was a good representative site of cedars peeled by Native Americans. There was also discussion that the site needed a developed trail with interpretative signing to help visitors understand what the trees represented. The question was called to approve the nomination; the motion failed. Jim was directed by the committee to invite the nominators to re-submit the nomination after the trail has been built and after on-site interpretation has been developed.

D. Peg Tree, Lake Oswego

The nomination was submitted by City of Lake Oswego; seconded Paul. The site was visited by Arne and Al. This is a large, healthy Douglas fir. It is a local heritage tree listed under the city tree code and maintained by the city; it is located on private land and the nomination supported by the land owner. The site is marked with a brass tablet on a boulder that reads, "Old Peg Tree. A lantern was hung on the peg in this tree to provide light for early meetings in old town." Discussion was given as to whether the tree merited sufficient importance beyond the history of Lake Oswego to be granted state heritage tree status. The essential unanswered question was whether holding meetings under the peg light was representative of the early development of town's during the territorial and early statehood period of Oregon. More research was requested to answer that question. Paul moved to table the nomination until the October committee meeting; Arne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Arne volunteered to do research. Tony volunteered to write a letter to Oregon historian Stephen Dow Beckham. Jim was directed by the committee to ask the nominator for additional information.

E. Hoover Pear, Newberg

The nomination was submitted by the Colonial Dames of America; seconded by Doug. The site was visited by Arne. The Hoover-Minthorn House is the boyhood home (from 1885-1889) of President Herbert Hoover and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open to the public and is owned and operated by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. The tree is a winter pear, planted in 1879 and is in very good health. There is a popular story of when the eleven year old Hoover moved to the house, he ate too many pears and came down with a stomach ache. Hoover returned to visit the house when it opened as a museum on August 10, 1955 – his 81st birthday. The question was called to approve the nomination; it passed unanimously.

5. Updates & Reports

Jim distributed the newest list of Oregon Heritage Trees with their dedication dates and locations. Paul and Jim reported on the successful dedication events of the Captain Flavel Trees on April 9th and the Benedictine Sisters' Sequoia on June 1st. Jim announced that the Pow-Wow Tree will be dedicated during the Gladstone Chautauqua Festival on August 7th. The Frank Lockyear Cedar Grove dedication is still to be announced.

October 1st is the deadline for tree nominations to be considered for the class of 2004.

Paul gave an interview to the History Channel magazine and sent them our brochure and the profile of the Hager Grove Pear.

Jim gave a financial report advising that the value of the heritage tree fund is \$26,873 and that direct program spending for FY 2003-04 included \$5,000 for brochure printing and \$1,222 for plaques.

Sharon McCann told the committee about the book she is writing about sacred trees and places. Robbin Pearce told of the ordinances being written for the City of Ashland heritage tree program.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 29th at Peter McDonald's hazelnut farm in Wilsonville; lunch at 12:00 PM and meeting at 1:00 PM.