

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2005
US Fish & Wildlife Bldg, Hatfield Marine Science Center
Newport, Oregon**

Present: Arne Nyberg (Chair), Paul Ries (Vice Chair) Nancy Appling, Maynard Drawson, Doug Grafe, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Mollie McKnight, Fred Nilsen, Tim Nitz, Al Tocchini

Absent: Excused: John Brenne, Tony Dorsch, Amy Gillette, Pat Moran, Walt Schroeder. Unexcused: Josh Ingle.

Staff: Jim Renner

Guests: Mike Fontenot, Roy Fielding

1. Introductions

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

2. Approval of 1/14/05 meeting minutes

Charlotte moved that the minutes be accepted; Tim seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Committee Elections

A. Positions

Jim reviewed which positions were up for new three-year terms and that the following members were standing for re-election: Josh Ingle – Tourism position, Tim Nitz – Eastern Oregon position, and Doug Grafe – At-Large. Jim also explained that Nancy Appling was standing for the Southwest Oregon position being vacated by Walt Schroeder and that Mike Fontenot was standing for the At-Large position being vacated by Nancy. Jim then reported that the annual appointments from state agencies were as follows: John Brenne for TIC, Paul Ries for ODF, Andy Smogor for OPRD, and Pat Moran for ODOT.

Al moved for election of the slate of candidates; Tim seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Officers

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

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

4. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Powell Butte State Station Twin Poplars, Powell Butte

The nomination was submitted by property owners Tony Dorsch and Mary A. Rost Trust; seconded by Doug. Because Tony was unable to attend today's meeting to present the nomination, Al moved to table the nomination until the next meeting; seconded by Nancy; motion passed.

B. Otchin Walnuts, Hillsboro

The nomination was submitted by the property owner Ruth Pasley; seconded by Arne. Arne visited the site and reported that there are two black walnut trees said to be planted in 1849 by Thomas Otchin after his return from the California Gold Rush. The trees later received English walnut grafts. A plaque on one of the trees, placed by the Five Oaks Garden Club in 1976, suggests that they may be the oldest bearing walnut trees in Oregon.

In reviewing the nomination, the committee praised the quality of documentation that was submitted by Ms. Pasley. However, it was noted that the Hinds Walnut Oregon Heritage Tree near Sutherlin is still producing at an age estimated to be 250 years old; there was also some concern that Thomas Otchin, although important locally, did not have the historical stature to merit state or national recognition. The consensus reached by committee was that the Otchin Walnuts did not meet criteria of statewide significance.

Jim was directed by the committee to forward the nomination to the Washington County Historical Society for possible local heritage tree recognition. Mike Fontenot volunteered to assist Jim in looking for other organizations in the area that may have an interest in starting a local heritage tree program.

C. Queen Oaks, Corvallis

The nomination was submitted by Bob Zybach on behalf of Timberhill Realty, the property owners; seconded by Doug. The site was visited by Maynard Drawson plus family members of Timberhill Realty and Bob Zybach who filmed the event; a tape of the visit was viewed by the committee. The Queen Oaks are two Oregon White Oaks estimated to be 500 years old and measuring 15'8" in circumference. They are located within Corvallis city limits, but are situated on an undeveloped, woodland acreage. The trees are nominated based on their site association with significant historic trails routes, especially the Applegate Branch of the California National Historic Trail; their association to early explorers; their representation as a last vestige of native oak savannahs; and for their age.

The committee raised concerns that the trees and property were subject to city planning commission rules and that it was unclear what was being proposed as a management plan for the property. The committee also wished to get confirmation from historical authorities about the association of the trees with historic routes and explorers. Tim moved to table the nomination until the next meeting; seconded by Al; motion passed.

Jim was directed by the committee to contact historical authorities and to organize a field trip to the site for committee members who would be able to go.

5. Updates & Reports

A. 2005 Dedication Events

Jim passed around pictures of the Dorris Ranch and Peg Tree dedications and reported that both events were well planned and attended. Arne Nyberg did a fine job speaking on behalf of the heritage tree program at both events. The dedication of the Hoover-Minthorn Pear is scheduled for August 10th and will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Hoover-Minthorn House Museum. No date has been set for the Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree. Heritage Tree plaques have been fabricated for the Hoover Pear and the Shrapnel Tree.

B. TIC Report

Jim reported that pipeline construction and roadway diversion at the Governor Withycombe Giant Sequoia Oregon Heritage Tree did not harm the tree thanks to the work of on-site construction managers, ODOT arborist Jeff Greiner, and arborist Lyle Feilmeier of Collier Arbor Care. Jim was directed by the committee to write a letter of commendation to those involved in the project.

Oregon Heritage Trees are now featured on the commercial website Oregon.com where a clickable map opens pictures and stories about each tree. Jim reported meeting with Oregon Community Trees to talk about a potential joint project to produce a calendar of notable trees. Arne volunteered to present the committee's power point program at the home of the Riding Whip Tree near Silverton on July 31. Jim reported the value of the Heritage Tree Fund is now \$27,032.

C. Reports from members

Maynard was given a tribute by the Oregon State Senate on July 1 for his lifetime achievements. Senate President Peter Courtney read a biography of Maynard and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Tree seedlings were given to each state senator and the city of Salem announced that it will plant an Oregon White Oak near the new city ball fields on State Street this fall in honor of Maynard.

Doug reported that he gave the committee's power point presentation at the Portland Audubon Society on June 4 in conjunction with the opening of an exhibit of Oregon Heritage Tree artwork created by Kristen Lassen Hunt. Doug hopes that future exhibits by Kristen will make this a recurring opportunity for the committee to get its message out.

Doug said he is still looking for a good Myrtle tree nomination. Mollie indicated that she hopes to nominate the Barlow House Walnut Grove. Paul believes that a nomination for a tree representing the Tillamook Burn is forthcoming.

The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2005.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 21st at the Sweetbrier Inn in Tualatin. Lunch at 12:00 PM and meeting at 1:00 PM.