

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2006
Central Oregon Community College
Bend, Oregon**

Present: Arne Nyberg (Chair), Nancy Appling (Vice Chair), Tony Dorsch, Doug Grafe, Molly McKnight, Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen, Tim Nitz, Katie Lompa (for Paul Ries), Andy Smogor

Absent: Excused: John Brenne, Maynard Drawson, Mike Fontenot, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Al Tocchini
Unexcused: Josh Ingle

Staff: Jim Renner

1. Introductions

Arne Nyberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Committee members and guests made self-introductions. Special thanks were extended to Tony Dorsch for making meeting arrangements.

2. Approval of 1/13/06 meeting minutes

Nancy moved that the minutes be accepted; Tony seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Committee Elections

A. Positions

Arne explained that terms of office were expiring for Fred Nilsen (City Position), Arne Nyberg (N. Oregon/Portland Metro Position), Al Tocchini (N. Coast/Willamette Valley Position), and Charlotte Lehan (At-Large Position) and that all four members have requested to serve another term. Tim moved for election of the slate of candidates; seconded by Tony; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Agency appointments

Jim reported that the annual agency appointments of John Brenne (Travel Information Council), Paul Ries (Dept of Forestry), Andy Smogor (Parks & Recreation Dept), and Pat Moran (Dept of Transportation) were up for renewal and that all four members were designated to serve another term. Tim moved to accept the slate of agency appointments; Tony seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Officers

Jim said that Arne, having served two terms as Committee Chair, was wishing pass the gavel to Vice-Chair Nancy. Nancy expressed her willingness to Chair the Committee and thanked Arne for his support and confidence. Tony moved for the election of Nancy as Committee Chair; seconded by Doug; the motion passed unanimously. The committee all thanked Arne for his service and leadership.

Nancy advised that she had approached Doug to see if he would be interested in serving as the Vice-Chair of the Committee. Doug expressed that he would honored to serve. Tony moved for the election of Doug as Vice-Chair; seconded by Arne; the motion passed unanimously.

Nancy and Doug's duties begin at the October meeting.

4. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Powell Butte Stage Station Twin Poplars, Powell Butte

Arne called for reconsideration of the tabled nomination; Fred seconded the nomination. Tony recounted the history of the site from being the first Post Office of Powell Buttes (1909), its use as a stage station (with the livery barn still extant), to the building of the current house (1934) and the trees being planted in 1935. The committee discussed at length whether the trees had sufficient connection with the site's early historical activities. The consensus of the committee was that the trees did not meet criteria for Oregon Heritage Tree status and in a 9-1 vote denied the nomination.

Tony was encouraged by the committee to talk to the Crook County Historical Society for local heritage tree recognition and that this may be an opportunity for starting a local heritage tree program in Central Oregon.

B. Giant Spruce, Cape Perpetua

Arne called for consideration of the nomination; Tim seconded the nomination. Doug visited the site and presented the nomination that was submitted Joanne Kittel and Sally Lockyear and supported by the Forest Supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest where the tree is located.

Doug said that he felt the tree has historical significance for 1) its close proximity to the Coast Reservation encampment where the Coos and lower Umpqua people were forcibly relocated in the 1850's; 2) its close proximity to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp of the 1930s; and 3) its survival of the 1962 Columbus Day Storm that broke 35' out of the tree top. The tree also has importance for its relationship to the USFS Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center and the signature trail that leads to the tree.

The committee discussed the tree's attributes of age and size; that it has survived fires, wind storms, floods and earthquakes; that an aboriginal trail led to the tree that was later developed by the CCC; and that it is an attraction at an interpretive center that receives thousands of visitors each year. Based on the tree's association and events with Native Americans and the CCC, the committee found the tree to meet criteria for Oregon Heritage Tree status and voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Doug reported that the dedication event for the tree will most likely be requested to be held in 2008 to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Siuslaw National Forest.

5. Updates & Reports

A. 2006 Dedication Events

Jim reported on the successful statewide dedication event of the Student Planter's Grove at the March 31 opening ceremonies of the Tillamook Forest Center with 300 persons in attendance.

The July 30 dedication of the Riding Whip Tree will be held from 2:30 – 3:30 PM at the Geer homestead near Silverton.

The Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree dedication will probably occur in September and be held in conjunction with the dedication of the Oregon Historical Marker interpreting the story of the Mitchell party tripping the Japanese balloon bomb in 1945.

B. Reports from Members

Molly reported that she is anticipating the coming nomination of the Big Leaf maples at the Barlow Road tollgate on the Oregon National Historic Trail near Rhododendron.

Andy said that OPRD is preparing a nomination for the historic oak grove at the State Fair Grounds in Salem. Pat offered to give Andy a study that he did about these trees.

Nancy reported on several heritage trees she had recently visited saying that the plaque for the Big Pine at LaPine State Park is missing and that the trees of Victory Way in La Grande are in decline, but that Baker Black Locust, Hinds Walnut, and the Lonesome Hickory all look fine.

Jim reported on behalf of Paul that the Smart Gardening show on Oregon Public Broadcasting would air an Oregon Heritage Tree Program segment he did on July 1 at 10:30 AM and July 2 at 5:30 PM. Paul also presented the Oregon Heritage Trees powerpoint show to the Stayton Rotary Club on May 3. Jim also reported that the City of Salem was planting an oak tree in honor of Maynard Dawson in the new Geer Community Park off State Street next to the Oregon National Guard facilities.

C. TIC Report

Jim advised the value of the Gertrude Bradbury Fund to be \$26,977 after expenses of \$243 of graphics produced for the Oregon Heritage Tree Program table-top display and a \$50 donation received from Judson Parsons of Medford.

Jim reported being contacted by Ethan Kearns, Big Trees Program Coordinator from American Forests in Washington DC. The National Register of Big Trees is requesting health and measurements for national champion trees not reported since 1998. Oregon has 36 Champions on the list with 29 trees needing updated information. Doug volunteered to contact the Oregon Register of Big Trees at ODF to inquire about the program status.

Jim asked Katie Lompa to join him in describing a partnership proposal from Oregon Community Trees (OCT) to jointly produce a calendar of notable trees of Oregon with the Heritage Tree Committee. Katie is the Secretary of the non-profit OCT. They have been investigating the production of a 16 month calendar (Sept 2007-Dec 2008) modeled after the Notable Trees of Colorado calendar. They would produce 5,000 calendars at a cost of \$17,500 and seek 16 sponsors to contribute \$1,250 each to cover the production costs. OCT would seek 8 sponsors and the Heritage Tree Committee would seek 8 sponsors. Each sponsor would be able to place their name and logo on the bottom banner of the month they sponsored and receive 50 calendars as gifts. OCT would use the remaining 4,200 calendars as "friend-raising" pieces and distribute them through schools who could sell them as a fund raising product.

The committee discussed the possibilities of being a full partner, or just being the sponsor of a single month. A consensus was reached that concluded the Heritage Tree Committee could not undertake this offer at this time, but thanked OCT for considering them in this project. The committee directed Jim to contact Mark Snyder with their decision.

6. 2006 Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be October 20th at 1:00 PM at the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem.