

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2002**

Present: Maynard Drawson, Amy Gillette, Doug Grafe, Susan Harless, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald (Chair), Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen, Arne Nyberg, Paul Ries, Walt Schroeder, Lowell Tiller, Al Tocchini.

Absent: Todd Davidson, Amy Jo Waldo.

Staff: Jim Renner

1. Introductions

Committee members made self-introductions and welcomed new member Doug Grafe. Doug is the City Forester for Albany. He is originally from Boston, studied forestry in Florida, and has practiced Arboriculture in Oregon for the past five years.

2. Approval of 7/12/02 meeting minutes.

Walt advised that he did not actually request an additional term of office as stated in the minutes and cited his concern that the distance he must travel from Gold Beach makes it very hard for him to attend committee meetings on a regular basis. Peter spoke for the committee expressing the group's appreciation of Walt's membership despite the distance barrier and that the committee would like Walt to serve another term and attend meetings as he is able.

Susan moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; Walt seconded. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

3. TIC Report

Jim Renner advised that budget issues at TIC have required him to hold back spending in the Heritage Tree and Historical Marker programs. As a result, Julie Porter's contract work has been cut back and Jim will be providing the staff support to the committee for the near term.

Jim also reported the Heritage Tree Fund is currently valued at \$26,146. The fund was established by an endowment of \$24,000 given by Gertrude Bradbury and is invested in a Municipal Investor account at US Bank. The balance of funds above \$24,000 is available for Heritage Tree program projects.

4. Committee Membership

Peter reported that there are two vacant positions on the committee: one for Eastern Oregon and the other At-Large. The committee identified several possible candidates. Members will call the suggested nominees to inquire their interest and report back at the next meeting.

5. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. INDIAN VILLAGE GROVE (Approved)

Walt moved that the nomination come off the table; seconded by Arne. Jim distributed pictures of the grove that were requested by the committee at the last meeting. Jim and Lowell described the site from their July visit noting its present educational uses and its remoteness. Al and Walt spoke in support of the nomination and its educational value for relating history of the Nez Perce. The original motion passed with no dissenting votes.

B. CHETCO VALLEY MUSEUM MONTEREY CYPRESS (Approved)

Arne moved to take the nomination off the table; seconded by Susan. Peter reported that the native range of the Monterey Cypress at Monterey Bay is limited to an area that is only 2 miles long by 200 yards wide. Walt reported that this tree was once the record holder as the world's largest Monterey Cypress, but still stands as the largest in Oregon. Its historical significance is tied to Harrison Blake and his 1850's home, now the Chetco Valley Museum, where Blake planted the tree. Blake's home was once a stage stop and the post office where he was postmaster. His wife was Mary Geisel, one of three survivors of the Geisel Massacre. Blake was the first member of the Oregon House of Representatives from southern Curry County in 1874. The original motion passed with no dissenting votes.

C. STAR TREES OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY (Approved)

The committee reviewed the comments submitted by Warne Nunn who planted the trees in 1942, a letter of support submitted by George Williams, and a description of the trees from the Marion County Heritage Tree program. Maynard explained how the trees have been designated as the largest Christmas trees on a college campus and described the annual tree lighting ceremony. Paul spoke in support of the nomination due to the historical significance of the trees being planted at the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Willamette University – the oldest in the West. The original motion was passed with eleven votes in favor.

D. MOON TREE (Approved)

Arne moved to take the nomination off the table; Paul seconded. Jim presented new information that suggests that Astronaut Roosa may have been present when Governor Straub planted the Moon Tree on Arbor Day, April 30, 1976. This was an American Bicentennial event held in conjunction with other state moon tree plantings. Later moon tree plantings at Corvallis, Eugene, and Roseburg followed this first event. Also, the tree planted was an Oregon Douglas Fir (not a Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir as earlier reported) that came from Benton County stock, in honor of Roosa's affinity for Oregon – his adopted home – and the inspiration for him to carry tree seeds in his personal kit on Apollo 14. Peter, Paul, Pat and Susan spoke in favor of the nomination. The original motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

6. Updates and Reports

A. Heritage Tree Dedications

The Governor Withycombe Sequoia was dedicated on July 27, 2002 in conjunction with a Withycombe family reunion. Peter spoke on behalf of the Heritage Tree Committee. Other speakers included Mark Granlund of the Washington County Historical Society, and Tom Withycombe. A young sequoia will be transplanted this winter into a location opposite the Governor Withycombe Sequoia in honor of the memory of Rick Read.

B. Waldo Tree at Island Lake

Jim read a letter received from Jeff LaLande reporting that the Rogue River National Forest has replaced the wood-rail fence surrounding the Judge Waldo Tree. This was a project that was requested by the Heritage Tree Committee after its hike to the tree in 2001. The project was accomplished by "Passport in Time" volunteers who packed in their materials by mule string.

C. Bombsite Tree

Jerry Darbyshire of the Chetco Ranger District has reported that there was no impact caused by the Biscuit Fire to the Bombsite Tree.

7. Old Business/New Business

A. Annual Dedication Ceremony Format

An outline showing the sequence of events in the annual dedication ceremony was developed by Paul and reviewed for comment. The committee liked the format and thanked Paul for his thoughtful organizing.

B. Susan asked whether anyone had information or knew where the John C. Fremont tree listed by the Deschutes County Historical Sites Committee is located. Susan is also searching for information on tree programs that date from the 1930's and 1940's.

C. Doug invited committee members to attend the Linn and Benton Counties History Forum being held October 20th in Albany.

D. Peter reported receiving information from the Oregon Department of Forestry announcing two grant programs available for projects done in 2003. Jim was directed to make a grant application to seek funding from the ODF Community Forestry Assistance Grants program for Heritage Tree plaques needed in 2003. The application deadline is December 2, 2002.

E. Susan suggested that the committee consider applying for future grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust and to apply for inclusion into the Trust's list of approved organizations that can offer Oregon tax credits to donors. Jim reported that the Trust's list is restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations, but that new legislation may be introduced to allow government organizations to be eligible for listing.

F. Doug Grafe offered to contribute his experience with the Albany heritage tree program to provide information that could help local organizations start their own heritage tree programs. Peter expressed that the committee has long been interested in stimulating the formation of more local heritage tree programs. It was suggested that the committee seek funding for the creation of a "tool kit" for assisting and promoting the creation of local heritage tree programs. Jim was directed to work with Peter, Doug, and Susan on developing these ideas further.

8. Next Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2003, 1:00 PM at Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd., in Portland.