

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
the HAILEY TREE COMMITTEE
November 12, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: 6:08pm

Attendance:

City Staff: Stephanie Cook, Heather Dawson

Committee Members: Linda Ries, Jim Rineholt, Katie Van Hees, Seth Gates, Kelly Siemon, Mike McKenna,

Guests: Ted Angle

Approval of October Minutes: 1st Jim, 2nd Katie: All approve

Public Comment: None

New Business:

ACTION ITEM: Discuss and possibly decide which seedlings to purchase for next year's ArborFest, in 2021.

Linda pared down the University of Idaho's Pitkin Nursery's list of what would be available for next spring. It was suggested that using more local drought friendly shrubs and trees will coincide with what the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, Wood River Land Trust and other organizations are doing to showcase these plants. Linda also has about 30 existing mixed conifers from past years that she will overwinter and have available for next spring's ArborFest. Last year the Rocky Mountain Juniper seemed to be very popular so it was suggested that offering up a variety of species and even small shrubs may be more interesting to the public.

The following species from the list were discussed for possible options for the ArborFest 2021 tree order:

- 1) Rocky Mountain Juniper: Is very drought tolerant and offers good screening. Folks can see one at the Arboretum.
- 2) Black Hawthorn: Hardy, bird friendly
- 3) Western Larch: Deciduous native conifer mostly found in northern Idaho
- 4) Bur Oak: Hardy, drought tolerant
- 5) Service Berry
- 6) Syringa

ACTION ITEM: Discuss proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Blaine County Recreation District, City of Hailey and Sun Valley Institute for Resilience for possible support of the Blaine County Recreation District Arboretum Resilience Project

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) gives the authority for public and private entities to work together to achieve common goals and objectives. It is also an avenue for applying for critical grant funding. Currently there is a need to upgrade the existing irrigation system for next year. The MOU is seeking to add the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience as a partner along with the Blaine County Recreation District that has been a long-term supporter of the Arboretum.

Vote: Motion to approve MOU: 1st: Jim, 2nd: Seth

Old Business:

ACTION ITEM: discussion and consideration of Heritage Tree protections, including recommendation of ordinance language defining and protecting certain heritage or legacy trees.

Many ideas and discussion topics were brought forward. The purpose of Heritage tree protections is to identify unique trees in Hailey that have historical significance along with other attributes such as age, size, rarity, aesthetic, botanical, and ecological value. It is important to try to identify these unique trees to maintain them before they are cut down instead of hearing about them after the fact. The program could perhaps save important trees and preserve parts of Hailey's history.

Before any guidelines or ordinances are setup, it would be good to identify some trees first and educate the public on how a heritage tree nomination works. Linda and Ted will start out by writing the first story. It was suggested that it could go out late winter/early spring in Our Town newsletter or perhaps have Emily Cook from the Mountain Express run it in the paper to reach a wider audience. Ted identified the Norway Maples adjacent to the Masonic Lodge along 2nd and Bullion Streets in Hailey as a good first story. The building was built in 1937 and was added to the National Register in 2008.

After this first tree story the goal of the program is to have the public nominate trees and perhaps feature the nominated trees at ArborFest. Many cities have heritage tree nomination forms that HTC could adapt for use here. Other ideas discussed include nominating a tree per month or perhaps each HTC member take turns at nominating trees as well.

Trees within the City's right-of-way that are nominated could be given a tree maintenance priority under the guidance of the City's arborist. If a tree on private property is nominated

perhaps the landowner would receive a visit from a certified arborist who may offer tree care recommendations.

Stephanie mentioned that something could be stated in the pre-construction guides for applicants to identify heritage trees that might be present on the job sites. If so, perhaps some protection measures could be brought forth and reviewed.

Finally, another discussion topic that was brought forward is to have a walking tour of the trees in Hailey similar to what the Sawtooth Botanical Garden does. This could generate interest for Hailey's trees and perhaps additional unique tree stories would emerge.

Staff Report: None

Discussion of topics for next meeting:

Adjourn: 7:20, 1st Kelly, 2nd Mike

Next meeting: December 10, 2020