

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAILEY TREE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February, 11th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Call to Order: Chair Ries called Zoom meeting to order at 6:08 pm

Attendance: City Staff – Stephanie Cook

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

Guest: None

Approval of January meetings: Motion by Seth to approve minutes, seconded by Jim and passed

New Business:

Pruning Seminar:

- Linda and Stephanie will prepare a zoom training program on pruning younger trees. This will take place on March 18th at 5:30 pm via the Hailey Public Library's outreach education programs. This will be followed by an actual hands-on training day in early spring. Linda asked that members of the HTC be available to assist in working with folks in the field so folks can be spread out.
- As far as outreach, the library does a good job of getting the word out about their programs. However, Katie will notify the Sawtooth Botanical Garden and local landscaping companies of the upcoming seminar. Since 5:30 is not the best time for folks who work full time the library also records these sessions for later viewing.

Heritage Tree Program:

- Hailey received its first Heritage Tree nomination from the Upper Bigwood Grange in Hailey. It's a mature Douglas-fir with a circumference of 60 inches, approximately 55 feet tall with a crown spread of 35 feet and an approximate age of 65 years. The committee voted to accept and approve this tree for its first nominated tree.
- A motion by Jim to approve and was seconded by Seth. All approved.
- It was also discussed that this tree will be profiled in the next *Our Town* Newsletter as a way of continuing to get the word out.
- As we get closer to spring, we should see more trees nominated as folks start to venture outside and can get around easier.
- Other possible Heritage Trees include a black walnut, larch, horsechestnut and a buckthorn. Linda will work on contacting the homeowners with these trees and help with nominations.

Seth commented the Hills (which own some of these trees) should be interested in this program because they have had tree work done on them. There is definitely interest in the program.

- Mike brought forward a concern that he had from a local realtor that this program could modify or prevent construction and building development plans and wanted to inform the tree committee. This may need further discussion but it was agreed that if a Heritage Tree is on or near the proposed site it should be addressed during the planning and zoning review process.
- It was suggested that one of the tree cuttings from the old pear tree that was cut down on the corner of Main and Galena be planted in a park or other acceptable site and recognized as a Heritage Tree with a sign describing the parent tree's history. Jim will check with Kristin Fletcher to see if one would be available to the city.

ArborFest:

- It was decided that it would be a good idea to hold ArborFest in conjunction with the Hailey's Farmer Market this summer. This year the market will be held at McKercher Park on Thursdays from 2-5 pm and may start up in June. We have had bad luck with terrible weather and turnout during April and May held resulting in limited turnout at ArborFest. HTC will coordinate with the Chamber for this event.
- Linda said the seedlings will ship from U of I Pitkin Nursery on Monday June 7th and should arrive in Hailey by afternoon of Wednesday June 9th. We could schedule ArborFest at Farmer's Market on June 10th or have it on Saturday June 12th. HTC members expressed support for the June 10th date over the June 12th because of less conflict with weekend activities.

Old Business:

Current Street Tree Guide:

- The current tree list was discussed along with what other species would be good to add. It was agreed to add shagbark hickory that is recognized as a good street tree for shade and is very hardy and has very minimal insects and disease problems. However, this Midwest native may not be found in the local nurseries and may be difficult to find.
- Kentucky Coffee tree was discussed and is on our street tree list. This has proven to be a good urban tree with very minimal insect and disease problems but may be hard to find.
- Webb will bring in ginkgo this year. This tree is extremely tolerant of adverse conditions and is a good choice for streetscapes. Male trees are the best choice since they are less messy and don't have an unpleasant smell.
- Linda discussed that no more than 5% of one genus should be planted due to vulnerability and economic loss to a community. She prepared a chart describing the percentage of tree species in Hailey. As expected, there is an overabundance of spruce, aspen and maples. Due to the abundance of maples, there could be a future risk that the Asian longhorn beetle may be the

next destructive invasive pest that could harm Hailey's maple trees along with other cities (see Dr. John Ball's TCUSA 2021 conference presentation.). There is also the threat of Emerald Ash Borer endangering all species of ash in the WR Valley.

Education and Outreach:

- This is a continuation of getting kids involved in promoting trees. When at least six trees have been nominated for the Heritage Tree program Kelly will work with teachers to see if kids would like to draw the trees and have them posted in a public places such as the library, chamber etc.
- The city of Hailey has a program for folks who have to perform community service. One idea is to have kids remove sod and enlarge tree circles around street trees.

Board/Staff Reports:

- Stephanie and the HTC will work together toward achieving a Tree City USA Growth Award by end of 2021.
- Linda reported that the next two Tree City USA virtual conference sessions are scheduled for February 17th and 24th. They have been very informative and inspiring.

Discussion of Topics for Next Agenda: Continue to discuss plans for ArborFest 2021 and hands-on pruning training sessions.

Adjourn: Ries adjourned meeting at 8:04 pm.

Minutes taken by Jim Rineholt