

Mary Cone

From: David Harris <bayside748@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Mary Cone
Subject: Heart of Hailey

Dear Mayor,

I'd like to convey my thoughts directly to you regarding Tuesday's meeting on the "Heart of Hailey" proposal. I thought Mr. Gouley's presentation was misleading. I think the area in question is really too small for any meaningful assembly of the community. Music events and the like would not accommodate very many people there. Once landscaped, to my eye, it doesn't leave much public space but for a few people to gather. The idea of water features, a sculpture garden, though admirable, leaves little room for the public to gather. As you probably know, the fire department won't allow you to commandeer the alley for safety reasons. Parking is precious. I think that parking area accommodates many people who work in city offices, businesses on Main Street, as well as those who visit the library. The repurposing of an existing building which already has an important business asset to the community is counter-productive to Hailey's viability. Again, I think the land is too small for the proposed uses. Mr. Gouley's expression of the uniqueness of Hailey, and then offering a sort of cut-and-paste example of other places, makes Hailey look like every other place. This is not very unique.

All in all, for the above reasons, and with the stated current cost of about 2.6 million dollars, which will be paid for with a bond which was not mentioned in the presentation, I don't think this is going to fly with the public. I think who would profit from this proposal is Mr. Gouley and Mr. Young, landscape architects. It appears they have already gotten into the City's pockets after seeing the presentation last night.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
David Harris



Friends of the Hailey Public Library

PO Box 2142
Hailey, ID 83333

July 22, 2021

Dear Hailey City Council and Staff :

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library organization enthusiastically supports the acquisition of the property adjacent to the existing Hailey Town Center Bldg (aka the Fox Building) and located on the corner of River and Croy Streets. The Friends of the Hailey Public Library have been working closely with the Library Board of Trustees and Library Staff to raise funds and garner grant funding to adapt and enhance existing spaces for more flexibility and to accommodate burgeoning library use. Some of this project funding is directed at the exterior patio space that would abut and dovetail with the proposed acquisition and use.

According to industry standards, the Hailey Library is grossly undersized for the population it serves. It is our belief a library expansion is needed, and it is our preference to maintain a library in the current Town Center location. The proposed property acquisition could facilitate some sort of library expansion and being adjacent to a multi-use, open gathering space could also accommodate occasional library outdoor programs and independent patron use.

We also would like to offer our continued support for potentially needed fundraising that would enhance library functions as a part of the development of this acquisition. We are a small, but passionate, organization and have trained grant writers, 501(3)c tax exempt status and fundraising enthusiasts as volunteer members.

Lastly, short term and long term space for Friends of the Hailey Public Library activities would be very much appreciated. Used book sales have historically been a cornerstone of our fundraising activities as well as providing economical access and exchange of a variety of reading and listening materials to our community. If this is something our community values and wants to continue, we ask that you consider the Friends of the Hailey Public Library as short term users of the existing property as well as the long term development design. For example, the Friends could occupy and manage the existing facility in the short term, providing a space for used book collection and sales as well as flexible use meeting space for library programs and possibly other community meeting place needs. Please feel free to contact me at 208-309-1774 or haileylibraryfriends@gmail.com if you need additional information.

Grateful for your consideration.

Sara Baldwin
President