

Hailey Tree Committee

March 14, 2024, 6:00pm

Attendance:

Committee Members: David Anttila, Jim Rineholt, Linda Ries, Kathy Bell, Melanie Paisley, Kelsey Paxton

City of Hailey: Emily Williams, Sustainability and Grants Coordinator

Guests: John and Karen Conroy, Hailey property owners and part-time residents

Call to Order: Chair David Anttila called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment: none

Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes: Melanie made motion to approve; Jim seconded

New Business:

- **115 5th Ave Tree Replacement:** Property owners John and Karen Conroy discussed their plans for a new driveway to the existing home at 115 N. 5th Avenue. They also own the adjacent lot at 123 N. 5th Avenue and plan to build a home there in the future. They would like to relocate and install a new driveway at 115 N. 5th. They presented drawings showing the plan to change the current entrance to the home from the north side of the property to the south, which includes moving the existing driveway to the south by 10.' The Box Elder tree which is located on both the property and the ROW, is in the new driveway location and they feel it creates a vision impairment when trying to pull out of the driveway onto N. 5th. They feel the tree is messy and they don't like the Box Elder bugs. This tree is a part of the ROW and street scape of that part of N. 5th Avenue, and David explained that we try to preserve old growth trees as they are expensive to replace. Kelsey commented that the Box Elder is in decent health; pruning would improve the appearance greatly. He noted that tree removal will not remove the box elder bugs entirely as there are other trees of this species in the neighborhood. The owners are open to replacing the Box Elder with a large tree from the City of Hailey Tree List. Linda explained that the stump will need to be ground out to prevent it growing back and that water to sustain a new tree is necessary. Swamp White Oak is a good candidate for the replacement tree; however, it will need to be placed far enough away from the new driveway to protect it from snow removal. The Conroy's agreed to plant a second tree in the ROW closer to Carbonate and N. 5th Avenue. Kelsey made the motion to allow removal of the Box Elder and replace with two larger 2.5-3" caliper class 2 or 3 trees. Kathy seconded.
- **211 E Croy Siberian Elm Replacement Recommendation:** The Siberian Elms that were removed caused damage to the trees in the adjacent yard. It would complement the street scape to plant 2 street trees in the ROW on 3rd Avenue S. Linda made the motion to plant 2 Norway maples in the ROW, south of where the Siberian Elms were removed. Jim Seconded
- **Hailey Tree Inventory- Wood River Valley Collaborative Forest Enhancement Project:** Emily and Linda attended the last meeting of the group where they indicated they have money and are looking for projects. Jim and Kathy have volunteered to work on the

Tree Inventory project; Melanie is also interested. A training will occur prior to the project beginning; Linda will also be on the team. The available funds must be spent by Oct 1st. Lance Davisson from the Treasure Valley Canopy Network will be assisting us. The project will update the current street tree inventory; Linda will prioritize the areas to focus on. There is an interest in creating a tree guide like what the Treasure Valley group has created, and Linda will inquire if some of the funds could go to that effort.

- Arboretum Workday- The Wood River Chapter of Native Plants wants to volunteer to help with clean-up, etc.; Linda will let us know the date and if we can assist.
- IDL Urban Forestry Project Grant- This grant is available; applicants apply directly to Idaho Dept of Lands. We can write the grant for funding of tree pruning, maintenance, inventory management, etc., for city street trees and can use this for areas that are underserved in Hailey. The Old Cutters boulevard trees could be a good project to fund.

Old Business:

- Hailey Heritage Tree Program- Linda is looking for assistance with this project.
- Hailey Cemetery Conversation- Linda got some information from Kelsey about the tree issues. The cemetery has contracted with a professional arborist/ tree service company. Linda will provide a tree list to them and remind them we are a resource.
- Bee City USA Designation- We will apply for this designation as there aren't many cities in Idaho designated as such; we would be the only city in the WRV. We will be required to have a city staff member dedicated to the program and committee oversight. We would expand the HTC responsibility to do this. Once the designation is received, we would need to do a celebration, which could include education around pesticides, pollinator friendly plants, etc.. Melanie made a motion to become a sponsor for Hailey to apply to be a Bee City. Linda seconded.
- Arbor Day Foundation Tree Planting Update- The date is May 18; still need permission from Cox. June 8, the first Farmer's market day is our Arbor Day submission.

David showed us an example of a non-profit program in Santa Barbara as a possible way to expand and fund our street tree program using public donations. Via the Santa Barbara Beautiful tree program, community members donate funds to purchase new street trees. A commemorative plaque is included when the tree is planted to recognize the donor. It's a great model to review to fund the planting of street trees.

Staff Report:

Discussion of Topics for Next Agenda- Next regular meeting is April 11th, 2024, 6:00p.m.

Street tree list- need to discuss

Sunbeam Phase 2 tree list

Adjourn: 7:30p.m. David made the motion; Melanie seconded