

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAILEY TREE COMMITTEE

April 13, 2023 at 6:00PM

Call to Order: Chair David Antilla called meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Attendance: City Staff: Emily Williams (Sustainability and Grants Coordinator)

Committee Members: Linda Ries, Melanie Paisley, Jim Rineholt, Kathy Bell

Public: Denise Ford, Landscape Architect

Approval of March minutes: Motion by Linda to approve, 2nd by Melanie. All approve.

Public Comment: Denise Ford presented an idea about creating a “Tree Friendly” program similar to the Trout Friendly program sponsored by the Wood River Land Trust. There would be no tie to the Tree City USA program. It could be a way to recognize homeowners in the community that have preserved and protected trees on their property and have done the right thing by protecting the urban forest. The HTC could make nominations of properties that are good examples of this stewardship and get coverage of it in the Mt. Express. A couple of examples provided were the Jim Hill property at the corner of 3rd/Bullion (already a part of the Heritage Tree Program) and the property located at 121 N 3rd. The committee discussed that some guidelines should be established for nominations. David will review the criteria for the Trout Friendly program and this discussion will continue at a future HTC meeting.

New Business:

Heritage Tree Nomination:

Jim Rineholt presented information on the Ponderosa Pine tree located on the Hepworth property at 416 E Silver. Planted in 1967 by John Hepworth, as a seedling, it has grown into a beautiful mature tree. John passed away in 2022 and Jim would like to see this tree recognized as one of our Heritage Trees. Motion to approve this tree as a Heritage tree by Melanie, 2nd by Linda. All Approve. The HTC will add this to the list of heritage trees and signage will be created in the future.

Spring Fruit tree Pruning Workshop

Re-scheduled for May 4th at 5pm. Kelsey will lead the demonstration, Jim Rineholt will be there to assist. Linda Ries has tree pruning brochures that can be provided to the participants.

River Street Tree Plan

David suggested the HTC walk River Street and look at current street trees and projects underway. HTC should make some recommendations to City of Hailey P+Z as far as what trees to preserve. HTC available members will meet at City Hall at 6pm on Thursday, 4/20 for the walk. Emily will provide the HTC with the plans for the different blocks on River Street.

Discuss Existing Tree Site Analysis for new Development

The committee discussed the City of Hailey Design review code and agreed that there seems to be a breakdown in information coming from Community Development and/or P+Z to the HTC. There is a concern that mature trees are being removed and replanted with new trees. There appears to be a break down in connectivity between P+Z reviews of proposed site plans and what existing trees/landscaping are being removed or retained. Emily will connect with Community Development and have a staff member come and discuss this issue at an upcoming HTC meeting.

Review Bee City USA Proposal

Linda Ries discussed proposing the City of Hailey become a Bee City. There are very few Bee cities in the State; Garden City was the first. Linda explained that to become a Bee City, the city would need to have a point person and then the oversight of the program could be with the HTC. Emily mentioned that Mayor Burke has asked that no pesticides be used in any city parks. Linda has talked with a representative of the City of Boise, who have their own tree maintenance crews; he will provide Linda with the guidelines they will use for pesticides, etc. Linda had a "boiler plate" document that could be provided as the motion to the city council. The committee discussed that any resources such as plant lists, etc., could be on the City of Hailey website. All HTC committee members were in favor of pursuing the idea; it will be a continued discussion at a future meeting.

Old Business:

Finalize Heritage Tree Signs

Linda updated the committee that 8 of the Heritage Tree Signs are at the printer and in process. We should expect to see them sometime in May. They will be installed in the summer. The committee discussed having a small event at each location and to invite the public. At some point the Heritage Tree information will be added to the Hailey Historical Walking Tour. Emily offered to update the current Hailey City Park map with the Heritage Tree location.

Finalize Earth Day Event Plan

David indicated that the HTC should be represented on both Friday 4/21 and Saturday 4/22. We will have a table and have information on: Arboretum, current Hailey Street Tree list, Heritage Tree Program and volunteer sign-up sheets. David, Jim and Kathy committed to be in attendance.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Dave, 2nd by Linda

Adjourn at 7:17 PM.