

**Hailey Tree Committee Meeting  
August 23, 2023**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members:** Jim Rineholt, Linda Ries, Kathy Bell, Kelsey Paxton

**City of Hailey:** Emily Williams, Sustainability and Grants Coordinator

**Call to Order:** 6:02pm by Vice-Chair, Jim Rineholt

**Public Comment:**

Kristin Fletcher provided an overview of her Heritage Tree nomination of a Heirloom Pear Tree that originally stood at the corner of Galena and Main Street. She found out that the tree was slated for removal due to a branch falling off, as it was considered a hazard. She got permission from the property owner and collected healthy tips to graft, prior to the tree being cut down. Once the tree was cut down, Jim Rineholt and she determined it was 107-109 years old, based on examining the tree rings. She found historic photo that showed a picture of the original tree and an archived article the Wood River Journal that stated the tree had celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year in the 1980. Kristin tried to identify the type of pear but could not. She worked with Bob Purvis-owner of Purvis Orchards, for assistance with the grafting of the tips. She originally had 50 new plants that started, but only 4-6 survived. The survivors are in homes, two currently in Hailey and the others are in different locations around Idaho and are doing well. She feels it is important to honor this tree and has completed the nomination form for the committee.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023- Linda moved to approve the minutes; Kelsey seconded

**New Business:**

- Review and Recommend Action on Street Tree at 304 E. Elm Street- Multiple HTC members had gone and viewed the Box Elder in question. All agreed it's not a high-risk tree at this time, so it can't be removed by the city. The homeowner can have it removed at her own expense and would not be required to replace it. Kelsey made a motion to allow the homeowner to remove the tree at their expense; Kathy seconded.
- Review Street Tree at 311 E. Bullion-Needs pruning and needs to have some structural work completed. Kelsey made a motion to recommend pruning to reduce chance of limb failure in the future; Linda seconded.
- Review volunteer Siberian Elm on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue side of 211 E. Croy Property- These trees are clearly volunteers; possibly grew out of an old stump. The roots have caused much damage to the sidewalk. The HTC feels it would be best if these trees are removed by the city. Linda made the motion that the Siberian Elms on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> be removed; stump ground and sidewalk repaired; Kathy seconded.
- Heritage Tree Nomination: The HTC members discussed how this tree could be honored, as fruit trees were a part of the pioneer heritage of Hailey. It's possible a sign could be placed close to the original location, which could include a picture of the original tree as

well as the story. Motion: Linda made a motion to nominate the heirloom pear tree and its story as a Heritage Tree; Kelsey Seconded.

- Review Sunny Town Homes Landscape Plan: The HTC reviewed the proposed landscape plan and makes the following recommendations for more elk resistant trees: Linda made the motion to remove Autumn Blaze; replace with Bur or Swamp Oak, use more Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*) in place of Rocky Mountain Juniper. Kelsey Seconded
  - The botanical name for the Bristlecone Pine also needs to be corrected to *Pinus aristata* on the landscape plan as the name is incorrect.
- Introduce Arbor Day Foundation Grant: Linda discussed that an application for this grant was submitted on our behalf by the Forest Service. The grant would be used to plant 12 trees around the Kiwanis Park. Linda wrote the recommendation for the trees; all would be 15 gal. Would need volunteers to help with the placement and planting by the end of September 2023. We should hear back on this grant very soon.
- Recommend Main Street tree species in front Hailey Auto: Motion: Linda made the motion to recommend a Swamp White Oak; Kelsey seconded
- Holiday Lighting on Main Street Recommendation: The lights are damaging the trees, so it would be best to ensure the lights don't go around the small branches of the trees and be removed each year. HTC is wondering if a formal, written recommendation should be prepared. If so, the cost of tree replacement needs to be a consideration as the trees can't be pruned and have broken branches. Linda will reach out to a colleague in Ketchum to determine what they are doing, and Emily will discuss with Lisa Horowitz. These conversations can help determine the best approach to make a recommendation to the city.

**Staff Report:**

Emily will be out of town on 9/14 and asked if we could change the meeting to 9/21/23. The HTC members present agreed.

**Discussion of Topics for Next Agenda:** Next regular meeting on September 21st, 6pm:

Holiday Lighting On Main Street- Recommendation

Heritage Trees

**Adjourn- 7:10 adjourned by Jim**