

Hailey Tree Committee

August 14, 2024

Attendance:

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

City of Hailey: Emily Williams, Sustainability and Grants Coordinator

Guests: Kate Driscoll, Foxmoor Park Neighbor

Call to Order: 6:04 call to order by Jim Rineholt

Public Comment: Kate Driscoll attended to discuss planting/ replacing a tree in Foxmoor Park., as a few of the trees there have died. Kate commented that a shade tree would be nice as many kids come to that park and there is no shade. Linda Ries explained that there was no removal of the sod around the base of the trees, so many of them were damaged by the weed whackers during park maintenance. She inquired if the city could grind down the existing stump of one of the trees that died as that would make planting the new tree easier. Kate is offering to buy and plant the tree but wants to determine if she should plant it now or in the spring. She is open to suggestion of the best species to plant and was wondering about a Linden or a Maple. Linda suggested a Honey Locust and suggested she look at the trees recently planted on E. Croy by Pike Street. The city would be willing to grind the stump; could plant this fall or next spring. Kelsey will review the site and help determine if 1 or 2 trees would be appropriate. Tree committee members can review the site and help determine the tree species. She also has a Bristlecone Pine that could be moved, if it could be used in the park. HTC will make a final decision on species and planting time at the September meeting.

Approval of July 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Kelsey approved; Linda seconded

New Business:

City Standard Planting Recommendations: Linda commented we have some information in the Wood River Valley Tree Guide; however, we need something to include in a packet for contractors. Section 1009 of the sample recommendations is a good example of specific language about planting and the expectations. HTC discussed that it makes sense to begin with guidance for tree planting and move onto protecting trees during construction. We need to determine who will have oversight of small projects (1-2 trees) vs. a multiple tree project. We also need to understand how alignment and enforcement with guidelines would occur. Emily will talk with Brian Yeager and work with Community Development to coordinate next steps and potentially discuss at our September meeting.

HTC Projects (2024 Budget): \$5000 is available and needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year, which is September 30. The committee discussed current needs such as: Arboretum signs, vests for the committee for community work and supplies, such as an apple ladder, pruning saws, gators, stakes, wire etc.. We will refine a list for the September Meeting. Emily will start a document that will track the expenses to be allocated.

Jim brought up the issue of the damaged Cottonwood tree by the Episcopal Church (2nd and E. Bullion) which is on private property, however, it is leaning over the sidewalk making it dangerous for pedestrians. The tree would be expensive to remove; Emily will investigate available options.

Old Business:

Wood River Valley Collaborative Forest Enhancement Project: Tree Inventory volunteer training valley wide on Sept. 10, 11. Linda thinks that the training is helpful even if people will not be able to help with the tree inventory. The organization leading the project has a grant and needs a list of tree projects. Linda discussed the need for a city-wide level 2 tree risk assessment and would recommend this as a project to be submitted for the grant. We could also consider submitting for grant funding for tree stumps that need to be ground out throughout the city. HTC will come up with a list of projects to submit.

Albertson's Trees: The trees removed were donated to the City of Hailey and will be planted at the city shop. The Elms were replaced with thornless Hawthorne.

Bee City USA: Want a submission from the HTC, which Emily will complete to go to the City Council for approval. The program will be aligned under HTC and will be the contact for the program.

Staff Report:

Getting lots of calls from residents to look at conditions of trees since the windstorm. The damaged Cottonwood at Hop Porter Park is being taken care of.

Discussion of topics for next agenda: Next regular meeting is September 11, 2024 at 6:00pm
Foxmoor Park Tree decision
HTC Budget Items 2024

Adjourn: 7:14pm adjourned by Jim Rineholt