

Hailey Tree Committee
Meeting Notes
05/10/2023

Call to Order: Chair David Anttila called the meeting to order 6:03pm

Attendance:

City Staff: Emily Williams (Sustainability and Grants Coordinator), Emily Rodrigue, Community Development

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

Public Comment: Mark Sindell, GGLO

Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Linda made the motion to approve, and Kelsey seconded

New Business:

Downtown Master Plan: GGLO representative Mark Sindell provided the committee with an overview of the plan for the Downtown Core, which covers the area from Myrtle to Elm between River Street and N. 1st Avenue. The presentation also covered the plans to connect the park/ preserve areas closest to the core. Key concepts to the plan are:

- Power of 10: A project design concept that considers the future use of the space. The design thrives when users have 10+ reasons to use/ visit the space.
- Greenway Master Plan: Connect the Hailey Greenway plan to the downtown master plan by creating access points that are designated to specific uses: Family Friendly access, Nature friendly and Wilderness access.
- Downtown Parks Necklace: Connect Hop Porter Park, Lions Park and build out the Urban Plaza around Town Center West.
- Promenade: Create a prominent shared use pathway connecting Downtown to adjacent City Parks, including Hop Porter and Lions Park

A full overview of the proposed plan was presented; the following was pertinent to the HTC:

Zones 1-3: Large Street Trees 35' OC in expanded furnishing zone

Main St.: Large Street Trees in Silva Cells 35' O.C. (Accolade Elm or sim)

River St.: Street Trees

Require Silva Cells

Increase minimum size at installation

Designate Tree Type (Northern Acclaim Honey locust or sim)

Native/adaptive pollinators for understory

Side Streets: Ornamental Street Trees in Silva Cells (Autumn Blaze Maple or sim)

The plan also recommends increasing the size of curb bulbs on all streets and increase the density of these with pollinators

HTC members pointed out the following: importance of ensuring that the Lions Park plan is developed to consider the needs of the Elk; encourage wild grasses, wildflowers, etc.

In zones 1-3 snow removal, salt and Christmas lights are all an issue today. Change the overall maintenance plan should be implemented; holiday decorations should be on the light poles vs. the trees.

HTC members agreed that installing larger trees with silva cells was an important requirement, due to the slow growth of trees. Diversity of trees is important, to prevent disease, although

many times tree selection for projects comes down to what is available and the overall cost. The HTC members were comfortable with the GGLO recommendation for Honey locust and disease resistant Elm varieties, however, felt that Autumn Blaze has been overplanted in Hailey. Swamp White Oak was recommended as it has done well here; should be considered in the plan. A 4" caliper was being recommended; however, it was discussed that 3" may do better as they respond faster and grow better. It was recommended the budget focus on the west side of Main, as that is where the biggest changes are needed

Members of the HTC had recently completed a walk on River Street to look at projects underway and discussed how to best align with this plan as new project plans are presented. Albertson's and LL Green's plans are approved; making new suggestions of tree plantings to the Albertson's representative would be feasible. The committee also felt that this proposed plan should be a tool to use with developers going forward. Silva Cells should be recommended as they can be funded through the City/ Urban renewal as a 50% reimbursement to the developers.

Maple Street Apartments Landscape- Crabapples are being proposed, however, the Tree Committee feels that Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Tree or Gingko are better options. The committee also feels that pollinators be used where possible in the landscape. We recommend a Signature tree, such as a Swamp White Oak, along with pollinators and/ or signature piece of art also be included in the curb bulb. Emily Rodrigue from Community Development said there have been discussions with the developer and he has agreed to the following:

- Tree well size will be maximized
- If Tree committee has species to recommend, we should do so as the developer is very amenable to this
- Sidewalk width will be reduced
- Suggest pollinators in the curb bulb that are larger scale

Motion #1: Street Trees: Melanie made the motion and Jim seconded, to recommend Honey Locust be used vs. Crabapple along River Street; Norway Maple Emerald Queen as the species for the street trees on Maple.

The committee also advises to watch the spacing of the trees on River Street and recommend 30' between trees. 35-40' tree size should be the maximum size of trees planted.

As far as trees being used on the private property to shield the space from the neighbor, HTC recommends using Ponderosa Pine and could possibly reduce from 3 trees to 2. The Committee does not recommend using Alpine White Fir in the landscaping.

Community Development Tree Notification Process- Emily Rodrigue, Community Development for City of Hailey introduced herself to the committee and emphasized she will be putting in time and effort to formalize the process of ensuring HTC sees and can provide comments/ recommendations for trees in new development.

She requested guidance on the best way for her to support and ensure there is rigor in place. She would like to create a standard of practice which includes the best way to communicate with the HTC members. Key points that should be included in a workbook, such as the analysis of existing trees on a development site. An evaluation should be completed with an HTC member to ensure that a heritage tree or tree of significance/12" in diameter would be protected. Construction standards (Pre, during, post) should also be included Linda

volunteered to do a walk-through with Emily to point out common issues and provide some training.

Emily suggested creating a text amendment to give teeth to the guidelines and support enforcement. Decisions on landscaping and trees are determined early in the project; a call-out on the pre-development checklist could help.

Tree Guidelines should include both private and public trees. In prior years, the city had information of the trees in the city core. It was required to show every tree both on private property and in the Right of Way. Each had to be measured and shown on the plans. This seems to not be enforced although it is still in the city requirements

- David brought up the Silver/ River plan that has no trees on the plans. We have a Lodgepole pine- 50' tree we would like to see it preserved. We believe it may be in ROW. How can we preserve it if possible? Emily Williams will follow up with the developer to see what is in the plan.

Next Steps:

- Create a word document with a check list of what steps to take. HTC will deliver prior to next meeting and plan an "in the field" training session.

21 W Cedar Tree Review- It will most likely die- has uptake. HTC recommends this tree be removed.

621 E Elm Tree Review- Property owner told Emily Williams it was dropping branches; thinks they will die. Multiple HTC members had looked at the trees, and identified they are middle aged aspen trees with typical characteristics. They are not high-risk trees; could mitigate hazard by trimming. Could take them down if the owner is willing to replace them with city approved trees.

Motion: Linda made the motion, Kathy seconded that the city will agree to prune them to keep them healthy OR if the owner wants to remove them, she has to replace them with city approved trees by Spring, 2024.

Draft 2024 City Tree Budget Recommendation- Linda provided the proposed budget for review: more than HTC has had in the past and is well categorized.

Water/ irrigation budget- should be public works- as noted and needs to be considered for new plantings

Motion: Jim made the motion to approve the proposed tree budget as presented, Melanie seconded.

The budget should be presented to the Mayor and council soon. Emily will determine if it can be an agenda item for May 22,2023 agenda and report back.

Arbor Fest Discussion – Event is on 6/10/23, from 9am-1pm, the first day of the Hailey Farmer's Market. Multiple HTC members will attend; the event will be modeled after last year's event. HTC will publicize the Arboretum; have flyers to pass out. Kris will bring the pollinator jewelry to sell as a fund raiser for the Arboretum. Details will be finalized at the June HTC Meeting.

Old Business:

River Street Tree Plan Update- Walk was successful. Moving forward we hope the proposed GGLO plan can be followed.

Arboretum Memorial Bench Update- Linda met with Mark Spencer/ Kristen Fletcher. A 6' slab bench will be made. Kristen will make the plaque and it will be placed between the 2 large trees near the back of the Arboretum.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities- Could help with Sunbeam; Junipers are not going to make it, so it was recommended to cut them off. Perhaps a clean-up could be organized.

Main & Croy Street Tree-The tree has been selected; Linda will tag the 3" Triumph Elm at Webb. This could be the Arbor Day Tree and could be planted before June 10th.

Staff Report: Emily Williams reported that Webb has managed the overall maintenance of Sunbeam this year and will continue to maintain them. She met onsite with Brian Yeager and Lisa Horowitz who suggested to leave the trees/ plants that might survive. The development agreement with Sunbeam indicates the street trees are the development's responsibility. The city is submitting an insurance claim for the damage from wildlife in the park area; Emily will keep us posted on how that claim proceeds. HTC recommended the grass around the street trees be removed or cut/ back to prevent future damage.

Sunbeam Subdivision Trees: The HTC agrees we should leave them and see what survives, as the wildlife issue will be ongoing.

Discussion topics for next meeting:

- How to coordinate future development plans with the GGLO recommendations.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:04 pm – Made by Jim, seconded by Melanie