

Hailey Tree Committee Meeting

July 6, 2023

Attendance:

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

City of Hailey: Emily Williams, Sustainability and Grants Coordinator, Brian Yeager, Public Works Director

Call to Order: 6:01pm by David Anttila, Committee Chair

Public Comment: Ivana Radlova, Homeowner at 304 E Elm Street
Mark Sindell, Principle, GGLO

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Linda made motion to approve; Jim seconded

New Business:

- **Heritage Tree Nomination (Kristin Fletcher):** Deferred to August meeting
- **Review Street Tree at 304 E. Elm Street:** Linda asked if this tree was actually in the ROW or on private property. The homeowner, Ivana Radlova confirmed it was in the ROW. It is a Box Elder and has lots of branches coming down; the homeowner would replace it if required but would want guidance from the committee. The homeowner indicated she has spent a lot of time trying to take care of it, but it is not doing well. Linda explained that we try to prune vs. replace and explained that if removed, they would need to grind the stump to prevent re-growth. Kelsey commented it's hard to give a recommendation without a thorough analysis of the tree. Linda and Kelsey both think we need to examine the base of the tree to make a fully informed recommendation. There is a lot of shrubbery on the lot, so may not be appropriate to plant a new street tree.

Motion: Linda made motion to make a thorough evaluation of the tree and make a formal recommendation at the August meeting. Melanie seconded

Old Business:

- **Recommendation on Tree Species for River St LHTAC:** (Refer to Downtown Master Plan and River Street ROW Draft): Brian Yeager: Current plans are being finalized; we are at a decision point for tree species for street trees on River. The recommendation is needed for River Street, the project is funded for two blocks only: 1 block South and 1 block North of Bullion. There should be a consistency in appearance of the Master Plan and River Street. (Phase 1)
Mark Sindell from GGLO discussed the connectivity of this project to the Master plan. The goal is diversity of trees among the streets, not a disjointed collection of trees. The trees recommended in the Master Plan are Elm, Honey Locust, Maple, and Quaking Aspens. Linda commented that many Maples have been planted and have breakage, so we should think about what has done well here. Lindens maybe better for Main; aphids may be a problem, but they can be treated. Washington Hawthorne is a specialty tree, but nice for a promenade although it's good sized, slow grower. Kelsey likes the Washington Hawthorne as well and sees it as an interesting and underutilized species in our climate. Japanese Tree Lilacs are also a good option. The committee recommends having two options on the table for street trees as it gives more flexibility when it comes

to availability. Bulb outs could be large trees; Swamp White Oaks could be a good option for the corners. Norway Maples are a good option for the side streets.

Motion: Kelsey made the motion that Honey Locusts be the choice for street trees on River Street Corridor and Swamp White Oaks for the curb bulbs. Melanie seconded

- **Review Street Tree at River and Bullion (NW Corner):** Brian Yeager discussed that they intend to save the large Siberian Elm on the corner, however, it's in jeopardy from the digging, utility work that will go on for the River Street project. It may not do well and could create a higher cost for removal in 5 years if it dies. It's possible another tree could be put in the curb bulb in the future; a silva cell would most likely not be installed should this tree need to be removed in the future (the current silva cell funding is through the LHTAC grant). Linda inquired if the space was still planned to be developed behind The Attic. They have trees currently on their private property; the Tree Committee would want to consider the existing trees as part of the River Street plan. Tree wells on this project are to the city standard.

River street trees are 2' to the edge of the asphalt. Committee recommends planting a larger caliper tree when planting street trees; branches are higher and will solve the issue of interfering with bike traffic and snow removal equipment. No tree grates will be used in this new plan on River.

- **Recommendation on Lodgepole Pine at 403 N. River Street (refer to arborist review):** River Lane tree: Planting bed is planned for the area where the Lodgepole pine is located currently. Lodgepole pines are planned for the exterior perimeter of the property. Construction can be very damaging as it's possible the current root system will be damaged. Concrete and pavers are a potential impact to the roots; irrigation after the fact can be an issue. The committee discussed that there could be oversight for the tree during construction and suggested that more exploration of the likelihood of the tree's survival to be completed when construction starts in April. It's important that this be put into the construction plans/ specs now and ensure the contractor is aware of this when ROW excavation starts.

Motion: Linda made the motion that an Arborist does a more extensive evaluation of the tree roots prior to construction beginning with the intention of retaining the tree if the arborist determines the tree is likely to survive. Tree committee will write the criteria for the evaluation. Kathy seconded.

- **Schedule HTC Volunteer Day:**
 - Remove Christmas lights outside of the library- July 19th – 9am
 - Arboretum- Linda will write up a list of what we need to do before fall. Has an idea for Volunteers to host arboretum tours.
 - Arboretum Donation made to the WRV chapter of the Native Plant Society for \$1000 – can be used for matching donations, projects, etc. The donation will be set up in a separate account. Bee jewelry will be sold at the Farmer's Market to benefit the Arboretum

Staff Report: None

Discussion for Topics for Next Agenda: (Next regular meeting is August 10th, 6:00PM)

Heritage Tree nomination from Kristin Fletcher

Adjourn: 7:50 pm- Jim motioned to adjourn; David seconded