

## **Hailey Tree Committee**

**February 7, 2024 6:00pm**

### **Attendance:**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Chair David Anttila called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

**Public Comment:** Denise Ford, Hailey resident. Denise shared concerns about the recent topping and removal of Cottonwood trees at the Hailey Cemetery. She expressed that it seemed an inappropriate action considering it is located within the City of Hailey that is a designated Tree City USA. She also expressed concerns of scraping and damaging heritage sagebrush close to the walking path, outside of the cemetery entrance. The committee explained that the Hailey Cemetery is its own district and is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Hailey, therefore the HTC cannot formally provide guidance.

**Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Jim made the motion to approve; Kathy seconded

### **New Business:**

- Elect Chair and Vice Chair- Kathy made the motion to Elect David Anttila as Chair and Jim Rineholt as Vice-Chair, both accepted. Melanie seconded.
- 561 Aspen Drive Tree Limbing Request- Kelsey was able to drive by and confirm the tree creates a visibility issue, and the committee felt it was fine to prune the tree. David made the motion to trim the Spruce to increase visibility; Kelsey seconded.
- 115 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Tree Replacement-Owner wants to move driveway to the south, and the existing Box Elder on the property is in the path of where he wants to locate the driveway. HTC would like to keep the tree since there is very little vegetation along this part of N 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. HTC requested completed plans from his contractor for the new driveway so we can determine the location of the tree in relationship to the proposed driveway. Melanie made the motion; Linda seconded
- Review Hailey Tree Ordinance- The city is cleaning up codes; HTC needs to review and make recommendations to the tree ordinance. Linda explained that the tree ordinance references the WR Valley Tree guide and references the Hailey Street Tree list, but they are not totally aligned. The ordinance should be reviewed to ensure there is enough “teeth” in it, in the event there is a compliance issue. We need to ensure that all code is current and best practice, and that both the WR Valley Tree Guide and Hailey Street Tree list are aligned. HTC will review the ordinance and be ready to discuss at March meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- Albertsons River St Landscaping Plan- HTC questioned why the Green Ash are on the plan; the Holmstead Elm noted is too large for the space. We would also like to encourage them to use less salt around their property. Emily will provide comments back to them and provide our prior tree recommendations. The planned landscaping for the transformer area is fine.

- Hailey Heritage Trees- We have trees approved and need to prepare signage. Linda will send out the list of approved trees. David asked about the Weeping Willow on River and Walnut by the old sustainability center. We would like to consider that tree as a Heritage Tree, however it is on private property and the owner would need to be contacted. The Heritage trees that are signed will be included on the next publication of the Hailey historic walking tour map.
- Review Hailey Street Tree List- Need to review and revise. We should make sure we don't have trees on the list that are hard to source or don't have a proven life in the valley. Linda recommended removing the Shagbark Hickory. We should talk with the local nurseries to see if they can source the trees on the list. The list should also include all acceptable color varieties. Conifers could be added to the list as they can be used if a site is a good fit for them. We can come up with specific guidance and merge this with the WR Valley Tree list.
- Arboretum ADA Pathway Grant- Linda informed the committee that we did not apply for the WR Women's Foundation grant. We are reapplying to the AARP Community Challenge Grant for the path and have an updated financial estimated from Titus Trail. We would request funds for entrance signs and other things. We have grant money received in May that we will use for Pollinator signs in the Arboretum. Could use them as part of our Arborfest event. The artist can also have them printed in Spanish if we have a future need for that.
- David informed HTC that he has started a discussion with the Airport regarding landscaping the exterior corner on HWY 75 at the entrance to Hailey. With the ITD proposed project to widen the highway, fill could be used to create berms and used for plantings. He indicated that the ITD seemed open to the idea, however, do not have a landscape architect on the ITD project. Due to irrigation issues, native grasses/ shrubs vs. trees could be considered. David will continue to pursue this and keep HTC informed. Silver Creek Living (now managed by Blaine County) is open to planting trees on the McKercher side and around the exterior.  
Triangle by the LDS church would be great area for native plants/ trees.

**Staff Report:**

Emily indicated that HTC was asked to participate in Earthfest (April 20) at Balmoral. It would be an opportunity to discuss plantings we are doing there in May. Multiple committee members are available, and Kelsey recommended having a site plan to share with people. Kelsey, Melanie, and Linda walked the property and have determined placement. David will create a map /diagram. 12 trees are close to the playground and 1 Large tree will be close to the pavilion.

Discussion of Topics for Next Agenda- Next regular meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 6:00PM

**Adjourn** – 7:40 pm adjourn- David made the motion; Melanie seconded.