

## Hailey Tree Committee 1/8/25

January 8, 2025

**Committee:** Kelsey Paxson, Jim Rineholt, Linda Ries, Kate Driscoll

**Staff:** Emily Williams, Amy Bain

**Called to order:** 6:05 pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Wait to vote on Chair/Vice Chair for next meeting when more people are present**

**Approve meeting minutes from November:** Linda made a motion to approve. Jim seconds. All in favor.

### New Business:

St Charles Church Review and discussion points:

- HTC mentioned that only two trees are in the rights of way, and that everything over 6” caliper in the City Core, the City can recommend keeping. They would like to keep the Englemann spruce on the west side of the property, would like to see more of the trees on the south, and want to maintain character of block by preserving existing spruce trees. Spruce are a better buffer than smaller trees would be, it breaks up sound and provides neighborhood benefits. Also, having a tree in the NE corner would ensure that any new sidewalk and trees would be protected.  
Linda expressed interest in potentially having one of the trees be a heritage tree.

Recommendation: HTC recommends to retain critical trees in rights of way that they can, retain existing tree on NE Corner, would like to preserve large Engelmann Spruce on the SE corner, but modify the sidewalk to prevent damage to the roots. HTC recommends retaining one of the two large Engleman along South First Ave (tree labeled 3 on PUD page 8 may be best to preserve). If retained, take proper steps to mitigate negative impact to that tree. HTC like the species that they’ve chosen to replant with.

- Linda made a motion to approve. Kelsey Seconded. Unanimously approved.

### 13 E Spruce

- Kate asked if the tree can be pruned to allow light into the house, and Kelsey said they could. Linda said that you could remove the house side branches to reduce the weight of co-dominant trunk. Kelsey added that one of the trunks looked suppressed, and that the tree looked to be a 50-60 year old Blue Spruce.

Recommendation: HTC recommends preserving the spruce tree, but recommends pruning to mitigate potential risk for structural issues and if desired increase light penetration to the house.

- Kelsey made a motion to approve. Linda Seconds. All in favor.

#### Ellsworth Inn Heritage Trees

- Kelsey suggested waiting until they're done removing trees to nominate heritage trees.

IDL Matt Perkins will be in the area to monitor for Emerald Ash Borer in Hailey, and will be looking at larger Ash trees in Hailey.

- Kelsey mentioned collaborating with local arborists to monitor, and can recommend trees, including private trees to be evaluated. The committee agrees that the effort is important, and supports early monitoring and tracking. The greatest concern for ash borer is transporting fire wood and the nurseries continuing to sell Ash in the region. Emily will touch base with Matt to follow up and ask if we can hear the results. Linda suggested making a larger education effort to raise awareness about EAB. Kelsey suggested going beyond landscapers to include homeowners, and asked if flyers can be put in City newsletter as general awareness campaign.

#### **Old Business:**

- Tree survey: We can involve Far and Wise students in surveying trees.
- Community Forest Enhancement Project: Scope of works finalized and sent to Keystone Concept for review.

Staff: Planter boxes along Bullion in downtown core

Get an update from Mark on what the plan is for Bullion Promenade (tree committee would like to get involved again). Can we talk to Mark directly about the project as well?

Topics for the next meeting:

- Urban wood mill in Boise – how can we encourage a similar project here?
  - Kelsey noted that most removals are for Spruce, Cottonwood and Aspen
- Community engagement plan for Kiwanis Park project
  - Super trees might be a good way to go? Stock and planting – talk to Juerg about doing this

**Adjourn 7:05**