REVISED PACKET: 3 new letters received

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: 6-26-2023 DEPARTMENT: CDD DEPT. HEAD SIGNATURE: LH

SUBJECT: Consideration of Letters of Interest submitted for the newly formed Hailey Housing Committee

AUTHORITY: ☐ ID Code 50-203 ☐ IAR ___________ ☐ City Ordinance/Code
(IFAPPLICABLE)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

On May 16, 2023, Hailey voters passed a reallocation of the “1% for Air Local Option Tax, allocating 0.5% of that tax for housing for “Hailey citizens and workers who are housing-burdened” and 0.5% of that tax for “maintaining and increasing commercial air service”. This ballot measure passed by 85% of those who voted in Hailey. The tax will remain in effect until 2050. This year, the tax would generate approximately $78,500-$80,000 for housing in the first year. Background on the tax can be found here. The Committee will be working to implement the 2-23 voter-approved ballot language:

And applying one half of one percent (.5%) as follows:

a. Developing community housing for families living and working in Hailey;

b. For all ancillary costs which are associated with the ongoing effort to develop community housing for families living and working in Hailey; and

c. Direct costs to collect and enforce the tax, including administrative and legal fees.

Hailey Mayor Martha Burke pledged that, if the tax passed, she would propose a public process to engage Hailey citizenry as to how the new tax dollars should be spent. To that end, the Mayor issued a call for names on May 24, 2023, with a goal of creating a 5–7-member Housing Committee that represents our community diversity. Interested citizens were asked to submit a letter of interest within 30 days to Lisa Horowitz, Hailey City Administrator.

Eighteen (18) letters of interest have been received. Those are attached to this report in alphabetical order. Eighteen (18) is a large group for a committee, so a hybrid approach is proposed: Mayor and staff recommend that the group of eighteen (18) be used as a broad citizens Housing Committee, and that a Steering Committee of five (5) be appointed from those eighteen (18) who will meet bi-monthly to assist in developing the agenda and materials for the larger group. (The larger Housing Committee will meet every 4-6 weeks for the next 6 to 9 months). The Mayor plans to bring her recommended five (5) names to the Council meeting on Monday evening for Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT / PROJECT FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

Fiscal impact consists of staff time to staff the Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY OTHER AFFECTED CITY DEPARTMENTS: (IFAPPLICABLE)

☒ City Administrator ☐ Library ☐ Benefits Committee
☒ City Attorney ☐ Mayor ☐ Streets
☒ City Clerk ☐ Comm. Dev. ☒ Treasurer
☒ Building ☐ Police ☐
☒ Engineer ☐ Public Works ☐
☒ Fire Dept. ☐ ☐
RECOMMENDATION FROM APPLICABLE DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Move to approve the Hailey Housing Committee and Housing Steering Committee as recommended by the Mayor.

ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

“I move to accept the attached Letters of Interest for the Hailey Housing Committee and to approve a Housing Steering Committee as recommended by the Mayor.”

Date: _______________
City Clerk ______________________________

FOLLOW-UP:

*Ord./Res./Agrmt./Order Originals: Record 
*Additional/Exceptional Originals to: ________________
Copies (all info.): ______________________
Copies (AIS only): ______________________
Instrument # ______________________

List of Interested Individuals

Byron, Kristen
Crosser, Steve
Dehart, Kirsten
Fauth, Daryl
Fitzgerald, Jordan
Green, Blanca
Hayes, Ron
Householder, Brent
Hovey, Christian
Mathieu, Anna
Mendelsohn, Nancy
Neal, Matthew
Ornelas, Paola
Rubenfeld, Arthur
Schnider, Anthony
Seppa, Sarah
Wendland, Salongo
Wirth, Kris
Hello,

My name is Kristen Bryson and I am writing to submit a letter of interest to participate on the Hailey Housing Committee. I work at Cafe Della as the Front of House Manager and have strong ties with the community. My partner and I are renters in town and are fortunate enough to have stable housing but recognize the immense challenges facing fellow renters. We also have the goal of being homeowners one day and are often discouraged by the lack of opportunities available to make that happen. I am passionate about the possibilities we as a valley and city have in front of us. I love where I live and I want it to be a place that people of all demographics can find a home. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in the Hailey Housing Committee and thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Kristen Bryson
Hello Lisa yes i am inserted in a seat on the committee..housing is important in Hailey.. and how the money is allocated is important too. It will be great if many Hailey citizens can benefit from this in their housing bill's or rent or in some way. How the money is allocated.. still to be decided. As a retired builder I would like to serve on the committee. Thanks Steve Crosser, Hailey resident and home owner since 1982.
Lisa,

I am interested in being a member of the Hailey housing committee. I have lived in Hailey since 2012 and understand the valley housing market. I am a Real Estate Broker and am taking coursework for a certificate in “Real Estate Investing” from Harvard.

I recently completed a course in Financing Community and Economic Development which addressed many housing finance strategies. We looked at public and private capital options for low opportunity areas and low income housing including Opportunity Zones, New Market Tax Credits, Community Development Financial Institutions, Low Income Tax Credits and others. This course specifically focused on how to make community and economic investments that yield development outcomes that contribute to economic, environmental, and cultural vitality.

I feel I can bring valuable knowledge to this housing committee and would like to be a part of improving the Hailey economy.

Thanks,

For all the new listings this week click here
May 30, 2023

Dear Lisa,

I would like to express my interest in serving on the housing committee that is being formed to advise how to allocate Local Option Tax monies for affordable housing.

My background, as you know, is in the real estate industry, but I also am a founding member of the Blaine County Charitable Fund, and I am currently serving as Co-Chair for that organization. Through this experience I have seen a lot of the need that is currently out there, and together with some real estate knowledge feel that I could have a skillset that could be an asset to the committee.

I have two scheduled vacation weeks in mid-June and mid-July, but have no big travel plans for the rest of the year, so I could be available for meetings.

Let me know if I can be of assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryl Fauth
216 E. Spruce St.
Hailey, ID 83333
To Whom it may Concern,

Last week marked the 19th anniversary of my arrival in the Wood River Valley. My family moved to Ketchum in June of 2004 with optimism and excitement for the promise of a mountain lifestyle. I, Jordan, am a 27 year old female living full-time in Hailey. I share my age and gender because I believe it is relevant to the City’s written intention of creating a “5-7 member community that represents our community diversity”.

I grew up in the Wood River Valley. I say WRV as opposed to any more specific municipality because I grew up in rental houses; I have lived in what feels like every neighborhood from Warm Springs to Hailey. I have lived in a variety of local housing types including single-family residences, duplex homes, condominiums, and residential ADUs. This is a unique personal experience that has certainly educated me in local social dynamics surrounding housing.

Following my graduation from Community School and the Sun Valley Ski Academy, I moved to Vancouver, British Columbia (CA). I earned my Bachelors of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: Human Geography and Urban Studies from the University of British Columbia. UBC Geography (and urban studies) Department is consistently ranked in the top 8 in the world; it provided an incredible opportunity to learn from impressive professors in a beautiful city riddled with its own urban problems. Competing with cost of living and homelessness, housing affordability is one of Vancouver’s most wicked problems.

Shortly after finishing my B.A., I moved to London to pursue a master’s degree at the Bartlett School of Architecture (consistently ranked as a top 3 school in architecture and the built environment). At the Bartlett, I studied Space Syntax: Architecture and Urban Design, earning an MSc. (with academic distinction). In short, Space Syntax is a theory for evaluating socio-spatial dynamics as well as an evidence based methodology informing design at an architectural and urban scale.

Since returning home almost 3 years ago, I have since worked as a junior architect at RLB Architcutra in Ketchum. In this role, my professional experience and architectural design skills have developed profoundly. More importantly to the City of Hailey and the Housing Committee, I have had a front row seat learning about the functional processes, finances, and politics of our local building industry, Cities, and County.

Additionally, I coach youth soccer and teach part-time, and I enjoy many aspects of our mountain life. I believe I am an active member of our greater community. I have been looking to become more involved with the City. As a member of the Housing Committee, I have aspirations of establishing policies, practices, and values towards a healthy functional community and ultimately an improved local quality of life.

I hope you will give serious consideration to my candidacy and will select me to join Hailey’s Housing Committee. I will bring a fresh voice that reflects my upbringing in the Wood River Valley, my relevant academic training at a graduate school level, my professional architectural experience, and above all else, my desire to see our community evolve in the best possible way. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jordan E. Fitzgerald

June 23, 2023
Blanca Romero Green
1451 Shadybrook Dr.
Hailey, ID, 83333
beq323@gmail.com
208-316-0625

Lisa Horowitz
Hailey City Administrator

Dear Lisa
I am writing to express my sincere interest in joining the Hailey Housing Committee as a board member and to kindly request your consideration of my application. As a proud Hispanic woman with a strong commitment to serving my local community, I believe that my background, experience, and passion for promoting diversity and inclusion make me an ideal candidate for this position.

For the past 4 years, I have been honored to work at our very own Hunger Coalition, where I have had the privilege of connecting with people from all walks of life and helping to address the pressing issue of food insecurity in our community. Through my role at the food bank, I have developed a deep understanding of the importance of fostering a sense of belonging and support among neighbors, and I am eager to bring this perspective with me to the Housing Committee.

As a Hispanic woman, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges that many of my fellow community members face, and I am dedicated to using my skills and experience to help bridge gaps and promote understanding among people of diverse backgrounds. I am confident that my cultural heritage, coupled with my strong work ethic and passion for service, will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the Hailey Housing Committee and the community it serves.
In addition to my professional experience, I have a proven track record of working collaboratively with others to achieve common goals, and I believe that these skills will be invaluable in my role as a board member. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the development and implementation of policies and initiatives that support all residents in our community, and I am committed to upholding the core values of diversity and inclusion that underpin the work of the Housing Committee.

In conclusion, I kindly ask you to consider my letter of interest for the position of board member, as I am eager to leverage my background, experience, and commitment to service to help shape the future of our community. I am confident that my unique perspective and dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment will make me a valuable addition to the committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide any additional information or documentation upon request, and I am available to meet with you at your convenience to further discuss the position.

Sincerely,

Blanca Romero Green
INTEREST:
My spouse and I moved to the Wood River Valley in 1993, fell in love with the area, and raised our 4 children here. Each child attended public school and benefited from the wide array of academic, extra-curricular and outdoor activities. My interest in volunteering for the forming Hailey Housing Committee is rooted in my Hunger Coalition volunteer work and St. Charles Parish service. This winter I was asked by my parish priest, Father Ron Wekerle, to participate in an ad hoc committee coordinating the adaptation of our Parish Hall for emergency housing. Concurrently as a volunteer for the Hunger Coalition’s *Smart Choice Packing* program I became sensitized to related food insecurity spikes in this same time frame. Affordable housing and food security are key pillars supporting a healthy and productive Wood River Valley. As such I would sincerely appreciate the City’s consideration of my interest in participating as a member of the Housing Committee. Below is a summary of my civic involvement and past work experience.
Sincerely, Ron Hayes

CIVIC:
> The Hunger Coalition: 1-1-23 to current, 42 volunteer hours in Food Pantry *Smart Choice Packing* and backup driver for home delivery of food boxes, and delivery of *Daily Bites/ Snack Packs* to local BCSD schools.


> Hailey Public Library Board: Appointed Board Member 2013 and President 2017 serving through 2018. Responsibilities included organizational governance, policy determination, and financial oversight in concert and coordination with the Library Director and City of Hailey.

RONALD P. HAYES
CPA Retired


PAST WORK EXPERIENCE:
>DECKED, LLC: CPA, Chief Financial & Operations Officer 2015-2022 ($60mm revenue). I was responsible for all financial, administrative, and operational functions for this manufacturer and distributor of truck bed storage systems. Direct management 30 personnel driving the manufacturing, distribution, procurement, dealer service, finance, accounting, HR, legal and reporting functions of the company. Retired March 2022.

>SMITH Sport Optics Inc.: CPA, Chief Financial Officer/Sr VP 1993-2015 ($110MM revenue). I was responsible for all financial and administrative functions for this global manufacturer and distributor of eyewear and sport accessories including direct management of a 25-person finance HR and IT team driving all accounting, reporting and finance functions, contract negotiations, coordination of intellectual property fillings, strategic and operational business planning, foreign currency transactions, treasury and bank negotiations, and compliance with International Accounting Standards.

>SSI Foods Inc.: CPA, Controller 1986-1993 ($150MM revenue). I was responsible for preparation, review, and analysis and presentation of all monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements of this food processor, to senior management. Duties also included related tax compliance, multi-year planning, pro-forma product line expansion analysis, capital asset ROI analysis and financial evaluation of acquisition targets and/or joint venture proposals. Direct management of 11 accounting, HR and administrative personnel.

>DELOITTE: CPA Senior Accountant 1983-1986. Responsible for all facets of audit engagement management including planning, budgeting, staff development, training, and subsequent evaluations. Specific audit and accounting experience included the following industries: Forest Products, Beverage Distribution, Dairy Products, College and Universities, Health Care and Retail Grocery Sales and Distribution.
June 1, 2023

City of Hailey, ID
c/o Lisa Horowitz, City Administrator
115 Main Street South, Ste. H
Hailey, ID 83333

Ms. Horowitz –

Please accept this letter of interest for me to serve as a member on the committee that will allocate the Local Option Tax (LOT) funds for affordable housing purposes in the City of Hailey. I believe that my unique blend of experience would be an asset for the City of Hailey and its citizens.

Currently, I am the Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources for Mountain Humane, which encompasses both our main campus on Croy Creek Road and The Barkin’ Basement Thrift Store on Main Street. In this role, I know the challenges that stem from a lack of affordable housing. As an employer, it has been exceedingly difficult to attract and retain qualified staff, especially in specialized fields such as veterinary medicine. Furthermore, like many business owners, it is disheartening and concerning to hear about employees that must relocate due to the lack of housing, or face homelessness. Personally, my family struggled to find affordable, pet-friendly housing in the Wood River Valley when we moved to the area. I believe these perspectives would greatly benefit the committee as it provides recommendations on the use of LOT funds.

Additionally, I have a background in affordable housing programs. In graduate school, I spent two years working with the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) in Athens, Ohio assisting with program administration and promotion. I also served as the Programs & Finance Manager, and eventually the Director of Programs & Finance, for a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Indiana. My experience working with housing non-profits and government agencies would allow me to provide a holistic view and outside-the-box solutions to the complex housing issue.

Again, I want to express my interest in serving on this important committee – one that will have a lasting impact on current and future Hailey citizens. If you have any questions about my interest, please feel free to reach out to me at bhouseholder@mountainhumane.org or at (567) 454-0807. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brent Householder, MPA MBA
Dear Hailey City Council,

Diversity means representation. It is about who and what is in the room. Do I see and hear myself? Do community members and local officials see and hear themselves and their issues? As the City of Hailey opens its doors to new community members each day, it is important to ask whether they can feel themselves represented within the community, so they can envision a future for themselves in the community.

Through my experiences teaching Health, Humanities, and Outdoor Education with international schools and government officials, I have walked into many rooms but the ones most conducive to learning and growth have changed with the populations that inhabit them. An example may be found on the rapids of the Hudson river where an LGBTQ+ youth is nervous about boarding their raft until they realize their raft guide is LGBTQ+ as well. Another example may be found in Paraguay when a teacher decides to converse with students in their native Guarani language instead of the more “professional” Spanish. By walking into a room that recognizes their behavior as accepted and their interests openly represented, the individuals are more willing to trust and share. In other words, diversity is about showing whomever walks into a community that they matter and can be themselves.

Issues of diversity can be present in each situation, but some individuals have the privilege of being unaware of them. As is the case in most governmental institutions in Idaho, white heterosexual cisgender males have historically been able to see themselves represented on virtually every board and panel. As a white heterosexual cisgender male, it is my responsibility to encourage behaviors in myself and others that welcome each individual and open the doors to all backgrounds so that all individuals feel recognized, accepted, and that they matter. Inclusion above all emphasizes the importance of deep listening, reflection, and willingness to grow and change.

As the City of Hailey aims to grow and change with its populace and decide how the new “0.5% for Housing” tax dollars are allocated, I write to apply as a young, born-and-raised Hailey local who recently moved back to a changing hometown. My current occupation as Associate Director of Development and Gift Management with the Sun Valley Community School coupled with my strong Wood River roots and work experience in underdeveloped areas of Latin America equip me with a unique perspective I believe could help the Hailey Housing Committee navigate difficult topics with necessary respect and openness towards our diverse valley.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you,

Christian Hovey
City of Hailey  
Hailey Housing Committee  

Anna Mathieu  
PO Box 4637 Hailey ID 83333  
208 309 1329  
annamathieu@windermere.com  

Dear City of Hailey Staff & Officials,  

Please find here my Letter of Interest in serving on the Hailey Housing Committee.  

I have been a resident of the city of Hailey for 21 years. As a Realtor and Associate Broker at Windermere Real Estate/SV, LLC for 20 years, I am very aware of the real estate market. I have been a supporter of community housing for many years. I served on the Blaine County Housing Authority from September 2007 – September 2010, two of those years as Vice Chair.  

I have an MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management. I have worked as a realtor for ARCH, BCHA, and various community housings buyers and sellers. I also served on the Hailey Historic Preservation Commission for 2 years in 2006 & 2007, one of those years as Vice Chair.  

If you would like any other information on my background, please do not hesitate to contact me.  

Thank you for your consideration.  

Anna Mathieu, Associate Broker, GRI, MBA  
Hi Lisa~

I am writing to you to express my interest in participating in the new Hailey Housing Committee. As you may recall, I served on the Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission in recent years as a representative from the county. I have since moved within the Hailey city limits and would like to continue to advocate and serve the community in which I live; in matters that are of interest and concern to me.

I currently am the Director of Finance and Operations for The Nature Conservancy in Idaho. I have lived in the Wood River Valley now for 10 years. My background includes 15 years in property development, in addition to a strong background in finance. I feel that I would approach the role on this Committee with curiosity and creativity. I am a good listener and a thoughtful contributor. I would expect, with my experience and background, combined with my soft skills and compassion, I would be a valued contributor to the Housing Committee.

The housing issues in the Wood River Valley, and particularly in Hailey, are of concern to many local residents. The recent passing of the Air Local Option Tax, that dedicates funding to the housing burden in Hailey, is a welcome step in problem solving and one tool provided to address the issue locally. I would be honored to serve on this new Hailey Housing Committee to consider ways to best use that funding.

Best regards,
Nancy Mendelsohn
360-739-3915
Good Morning Lisa. I wanted to send over my interest in volunteering to serve on the City of Hailey Housing Committee. I am the Field Operations Supervisor for Cox Communications in the Wood River Valley. My past experience comes out of Southern Nevada serving as a board member for the Veteran’s Action Group serving Veteran’s in need with resources and opportunities. This included mental health services, housing placement and also coordination of events to include the Veteran’s Day Parade in Las Vegas. I also served on the Cox Charities Grant review and Allocation committee for 5 years in our Las Vegas Market. I have been a member of the community here and lived in Hailey for 2 years. Our Housing needs and opportunities are a subject that I am passionate about. I am a supporter of the recent LOT Tax Option and voted Yes to Air\Housing. I would like the opportunity to engage as a committee member and have impact wherever it is needed.

Thank You for your consideration.

Matthew Neal | Supv, Field Operations | Sun Valley
340 Lewis St. | Ketchum, ID 83340
☎: (208) 928-7905 | : (208) 727-7915
✉: matthew.neal@cox.com
Dear Lisa,

I am writing to express my interest for a position on the Hailey Housing committee, as a long time Hailey resident, I am familiar with our local housing challenges. Working and living in the valley as a young adult, I have had to face these issues first hand. I believe my knowledge in mortgage lending/real estate, and background in helping manage a business with local workers would make me a valuable asset to the Housing committee. I am also a fluent Spanish speaker and work with the hispanic community directly, which in my line of work are often facing the housing crisis in our valley and that allows me to provide valuable insight. The Hispanic community is underrepresented and I can help provide inclusion and connection to everyone in the community.

Sincerely,

Paola Ornelas
Hello Lisa,

I am writing to you in reference to the formation of the Hailey citizen housing committee and to indicate my interest in participating.

As a resident of Hailey and a registered architect in Idaho along with my experience in real estate over 30 years, I believe that I could add value to the group. More background on me may be found on my firm’s website [https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url? a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.airvision.com&c=E,1,NXR_PS2974phH80qi0ZH18S7_Zk0oMKeJljpm- sd3vTld0peGmufjHg-XAVvImUvKKnusncbws3Se0fL4Mq13Naq21DKg=ui3&type=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url? a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.airvision.com&c=E,1,NXR_PS2974phH80qi0ZH18S7_Zk0oMKeJljpm-sd3vTld0peGmufjHg-XAVvImUvKKnusncbws3Se0fL4Mq13Naq21DKg=ui3&type=1) . In addition, I could send you a bio in a week when I return from my travels as I do not have my laptop with me.

Lastly, I would like to talk to you about how you see the committee supporting the administration. Feel free to try my cell 206-979-5648 when you have time.

Thank you,

Arthur Rubinfeld

arthur@airvision.com

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url? a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.airvision.com&c=E,1,NNR_PS2974phH80qi0ZH18S7_Zk0oMKeJljpm- sd3vTld0peGmufjHg-XAVvImUvKKnusncbws3Se0fL4Mq13Naq21DKg=ui3&type=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url? a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.airvision.com&c=E,1,NNR_PS2974phH80qi0ZH18S7_Zk0oMKeJljpm-sd3vTld0peGmufjHg-XAVvImUvKKnusncbws3Se0fL4Mq13Naq21DKg=ui3&type=1)

M] 206-979-5648
Dear Ms. Horowitz,

My name is Anthony Schneider and I am submitting this Letter of Interest to serve on the committee determining allocation of the Local Option Tax for affordable housing.

I became a permanent resident of Hailey in December of 2021, and while I may be relatively new here, I have already experienced the reality of our housing crisis firsthand. I am the Entertainment Manager at Sun Valley Company and have personally seen the housing struggles our prospective and current employees face. I myself am worried about what I would do if my landlord decides not to renew my lease or to significantly increase rent after my lease is up.

In addition to my work as Entertainment Manager, I am a former REALTOR and have also spent about three years managing family properties- including my own rental property, in Northern Kentucky, where I am from. Throughout this experience, I learned a lot about assisting people from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds through the rental and purchasing landscape. Personally, I partnered with the Homeless Shelter of Northern Kentucky to help house two men transitioning out of the shelter and back into “normal life.” I feel that this unique experience allows me to understand the mindset of both a landlord and a tenant.
Unlike Hailey residents who were born and raised here, I made a conscious decision to move here—partly because of my love for the mountain lifestyle and partly for a job opportunity. I believe I can offer a fresh perspective because of the fact that I’m a newer resident. I’ve made my home in a variety of places around the country, and Hailey might just be my favorite. But this is also quite possibly the worst housing/rental market I have ever seen. I would love to be involved in solving this problem.

Presenting creative, simple, and practical solutions to complex and difficult problems is something that I have been regularly called upon to do throughout my life, most likely due to my track record of success in this area. I plan on being in Hailey for a long time and I would love nothing more than to help lay the foundation for an accessible, flourishing, and prosperous real estate community here. The citizens of this city should not be denied access to owning their own homes because of billionaires and their second homes. I believe there is a way we can all thrive here together.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any more information.

Sincerely,

Anthony Schneider
Dear Lisa,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Hailey citizen’s committee on affordable housing to help figure out the best way to spend the reallocated local option tax. As the manager of Center for Community Health in the Hailey St. Luke’s clinic, I understand and directly can see the impact that lack of affordable housing has on the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Hailey. I see this daily in direct interactions with our clients but also in discussions with our community partners in health such as Men’s Second Chance Living, Family Health Services, BCRD, The Advocates, and The Hunger Coalition. In our 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), “economic stability – including housing” was identified as one of the top priority social determinants of health needs in the region. CHNA survey respondents in the county consistently mentioned housing as one of the most pressing challenges facing the region, especially for populations who are disproportionately impacted by housing costs such as those who are low-income, older adults, and non-white residents. Approximately 27-30% of Blaine County faces housing cost burden.

In my role with St. Luke’s in Community Health I am tasked with creating a workplan to address our high priority community health needs and working with the City of Hailey on this committee I would be able to devote the time and resources needed to provide educated, informed, and creative ideas for how the LOT money might best be used. I can also easily make the time commitment to attend important committee and council meetings, if needed.

As the Community Engagement Director for St. Luke’s, I could represent the needs of one of the largest employers of the citizens of Hailey. In partnership with ARCH, St. Luke’s Health System and The St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation have committed funds to the construction of 8 deed restricted residences within Hailey for its employees. As I am sure you are aware this just begins to scratch the surface of the need for housing for our employees. St. Luke’s is aware of the importance in helping create more affordable housing for not just our staff of medical and ancillary professionals but for all Hailey citizens as stable and affordable housing improves the health of the community in which we serve.

Personally, I have lived in Hailey from 2005-2008, was a landlord in Hailey from 2009-2013 and have lived again in Hailey permanently since 2013. I work and recreate here, my children attend school here, I shop and eat here, and my neighbors and friends live here. I love this town and am committed to seeing it thrive with full time residents who live and work here, creating a diverse and flourishing community!

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to be selected.

Sincerely,

Sarah Seppa
To City Administrator Lisa Horwitz and team:

I am heartened by the news that the City of Hailey is taking the important step of establishing a housing committee! It will take a dynamic group to balance the need for housing with preserving what we love about living in Hailey.

I have lived in Hailey in some way for the last twenty-five years. I have raised my son here and made my life here; this is my home. My interest in housing began when I was searching for homes in 2006 and was priced out of the market here, despite working multiple jobs and saving every penny. It took the 2008 market crash and following recession for me to afford a home in Hailey. Over the years, I have seen available housing in our city turn into second homes and short-term rentals, and I have missed my friends and co-workers as they move further and further away in attempts to find affordable living situations.

I have owned or managed a small business in Hailey for the last twenty years. The housing dearth has affected my ability to hire dependable employees and has reduced the profitability of my business, as I have raised employee pay again and again in attempts to provide a living wage. I have seen the recent partnerships the city has supported to help businesses develop their own employee housing, guaranteeing the units will be rented to local employees or full-time, exclusive residents. I would be interested in working with the chamber and local businesses to make this more common.

My educational background includes a BA in English and American Studies. That and my extensive experience in management have honed my ability to problem-solve quickly and efficiently, and to communicate with people of all backgrounds. I sit on the calendar committee and have served on the curriculum review committee for the BCSD-- I know how to work on a team and understand working toward goals. Further, I know how complex it can be to produce affordable housing in a profit-driven economy-- my business partner and I converted a hotel in Twin Falls into an apartment complex to help meet housing needs in that area.

The city of Hailey is facing a housing crisis, and I am encouraged that city leadership is taking steps to make concrete changes in our area with a creative, dynamic and innovative committee. I would look forward to discussing this in person.

Thank you for your consideration,

Salongo Wendland
300 N 1st Ave
Hailey, ID 83333
208-871-8913
tosalongo@yahoo.com
From: Kris Wirth <kriswirth@gmail.com>
Subject: Housing Committee
Date: June 15, 2023 at 10:52:49 AM MDT
To: burkefamily203@cox.net

Madam Mayor,

I would like to be considered for Hailey’s Housing Committee. I consider it a chance to give back to our community a portion of the positive energy the people of Hailey have shared with me.

Briefly, I was raised overseas as a third culture kid. I considered home my grandparents ranch in Kimberly. I lived in a dorm in southern Utah for high school, briefly attended The University of Utah (philosophy), and also studied history for two years at Cabrillo Junior College in Aptos, California. I came to Hailey in 1972 and worked at Scott Boots. I was paid $2.75/hour. I (we) rented a small apartment on third and Galena Street for forty dollars a month. I stayed in that apartment for seven years and it became the place I had lived longer than anywhere in my life.

With savings from a year working in Alaska I bought a rundown trailer at North Fork Deluxe Trailer Court and stayed for ten years and worked construction until 1992 when I had enough money for a down payment on the home I (we) live in today at 521 Aspen Drive.

Hailey holds a special place in my heart and I hope my half a century living here and forty years of experience building homes can be a benefit to The Housing Committee.

William (Kris) Wirth
208-788-5122