

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
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A town without trees isn't fit for a dog!

Board Meeting January 8, 2013

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Marilyn Moore, Diana Smith

Tree Removals: Terra Firma Forestry removed 37 trees that were on the Public Works list and pruned 10. The trees removed were all dead or nearly so. Terra Firma also removed the 10 American elms on D Street and on E. 9th where the old high school was demolished. The trees had received no water and no effort was made to protect the trees during the construction activities. As a final blow, preparation of the adjacent area for seeding destroyed their root systems. Five (?) trees were removed for the East Sackett Street project and another is now dead due to construction activities. Curtis Milstein removed several young adopted street trees, mostly mountain ash, that had died. Three other-wise healthy large trees were removed at the pool.

Angie Jensen of Terra Firma told property owners where trees were removed from adjacent city right-of-ways that they could apply to adopt a new tree or trees. Unfortunately, the tree board budget for purchasing and planting trees is only sufficient to plant 10 trees, and we already have a waiting list for planting this spring.

Tree City USA: Marilyn completed the application to the Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City USA certification. The minimum standard that must be met is \$2 per capita of tree related expenses. Total community forestry expenditures were \$46,000 of which \$35,000 was for tree removals. Total for tree planting and initial care was about 50 cents per capita.

New Trees in the Right-of-Ways: Salida is losing its big shade trees as dead and dying silver maples and Siberian elms are removed from the city right-of-ways. By current ordinance, only smaller (less than 20 feet at maturity), ornamental trees can be planted in the 4 foot wide area between curb and sidewalk. The tree board discussed rewriting the ordinance to allow medium trees (up to 40 feet) to be planted, but there are few species or cultivars of this size that would survive in Salida. Do we go ahead and replant the city right-of-ways with what will ultimately be large shade trees and not worry about what will happen to the sidewalks and curbs in 75 or 100 years? The tree board will try to arrange a meeting with Michael Yerman and Bob Salmi to discuss these issues.

School Landscapes: Last fall, Jake and Marilyn met with school district officials to discuss the tree board's concerns with the landscaping at the new high school, particularly poor species selection and inappropriate siting of trees. They asked that tree board be allowed to review the landscape plans for the new elementary school so the same mistakes are not repeated. Hopefully, the city will make this a requirement. They strongly suggested that the trunks of the new trees at

the high school needed to be caged to be protected from deer; the trees have been wrapped with paper to prevent sun scald, but that is not likely to be sufficient deer protection.

Centennial Park: Tree board would also like to be involved in the planning process if the city goes ahead with the proposed redesign of Centennial Park. In particular, how many of the existing trees will need to be removed and how many can be integrated into the new plan.

Water Cost: The minutes of the November meeting state that according to Jim Close, the cost for water is 1 ½ cents per gallon. Jan Schmidt has corrected this. Cost to deliver water and then treat it is only ¼ cents per gallon!

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, February 12, 8 am, Café Dawn