

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
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www.salidatreeboard.com



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

Tree Board Meeting February 12, 2013

Present: Kevin Crowley, Kathryn Hardgrave, Marilyn Moore, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Also present: Angie Jensen, ISA Certified Arborist, Terra Firma Forestry

Bob introduced Kevin Crowley who is the new building and grounds maintenance supervisor. He will be over-seeing the parks and park trees.

School Landscapes: Diana has been attending the planning meetings for the new elementary school and spoken with Jeff Chamberlain, the project owner's representative for the school district, regarding tree board input into the landscape design for the new school. She told him that tree species selection and placement in the landscape at the high school were inappropriate, and we don't want to see the same mistakes repeated at the elementary school. Angie commented that all the trees were planted too deep and need to be dug up and replanted or they will be dead in a few years. The landscape was (designed and?) installed by a Grand Junction company, and they will replace anything that dies in the first two years only.

We will try to arrange a tour of the high school landscape with Jeff Chamberlain. There must have been planting specs. Did the Grand Junction firm adhere to them?

Trees vs. Sidewalks: Joe DeLucca mentioned using deep tree root barriers to prevent roots from growing under the sidewalks and curbs in the elementary school landscape, which would in effect create a container in the ground and not make for a healthy or long-lived tree (info@crbctools.com). Kathryn commented that she believes Aspen puts a shallow barrier adjacent to the sidewalk to force the roots to grow deeper under the walk. We can contact the city forester for more information.

Angie joined us to suggest other options for resolving the trees vs. sidewalks issue. Where existing roots under the sidewalks are creating problems, replacing the concrete with rubber sidewalks in panels or bricks, may be a solution. Another possibility, if the homeowner wishes to save the tree, is to reroute the sidewalk around the tree and on to private property. This would require that the homeowner grant the city an easement on the property recorded with the county. Where new trees and sidewalks are going to be installed, Silva Cells under the sidewalk provide a good rooting environment that directs the roots into the turf on the other side of the walk (www.deeproot.com). Another possibility is a half-grate in the walk with a new tree planted at the boundary of public and private property would encourage the roots to grow away from the

walk and into the turf. (Are our walks wide enough?) We will need to do further research on the cost and effectiveness of these possible solutions.

Shade Trees: For now, we will continue to plant the smaller, ornamental trees in the city right-of-ways and encourage homeowners to plant large shade trees in their front yards where they would have adequate rooting space and water. We may be able to purchase small-caliper bare-root or balled and burlapped shade tree species through the Colorado Tree Coalition and make them available to homeowners at a very modest price. The homeowner would be responsible for planting and caring for the tree. Poncha Springs plants trees on private property and gives no follow-up care; Marilyn will talk with Dee Miller to learn more about their program. Meanwhile, our annual Arbor Day article in the Mountain Mail will strongly encourage homeowners to plant shade trees on their property.

Riverside Park: Any tree work that is to be done in the park needs to be done soon while the ground is still frozen. Tree Board has strongly recommended pruning the dead wood out of the willows to make the park safer for the public. Angie commented that it is the still living and consequently very heavy limbs with internal decay that pose the greatest danger of suddenly failing, and she recommended making them a priority. Angie, Bob, Kathryn and Marilyn will meet at the park to re-evaluate the trees.

Trees on Salida Trail: Limbs have been chopped off large trees along the Salida Trail between 5th and 7th, leaving long stubs. The stubs need to be pruned back to the trunk. Bob and Kevin will check it out.

Chaffee County Garden and Home Show: The show organizers will make a limited number of tables available to non-profits through a lottery, otherwise it will cost \$200 to have a 8 x 10 booth with a 6 foot table. If we aren't chosen in the lottery, we will consider if the expense is worth it.

Webinar: On February 27, the Colorado Municipal League is offering a webinar on community forestry that is free to CML members. Marilyn will see if Audrey can't set us up to view this on Bob's computer.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, March 12, 8 AM, Café Dawn