

# Salida Tree Board

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

## **TREE BOARD MEETING December 10, 2013**

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

**H Street Tree Removals:** The city engineer has identified 14 or 15 trees on H Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10th that he says should be removed in the course of the street redo because the roots are damaging the curb; in essence, he is recommending removal of every mature tree in the city right-of-way. Of these, tree board had identified 6 trees that were not worth saving, but we would urge the city to save the remainder if possible. Unlike heaved sidewalks, the damaged curb is not a safety issue, and tree board suggested that the curb could be left as is and then be replaced when the tree ultimately succumbs to old age. Bob will propose this to the engineer and to city council.

Where the trees have heaved the sidewalk, the city can try to save them by rerouting the sidewalk onto the city ROW, onto an easement on the adjoining property if the homeowner is willing and wants to save the tree, or by cutting the offending root and pouring a new slab. Depending on the fate of these trees, public works will include replacement trees in the project budget. Tree board also suggested narrowing the street and increasing the width of the ROW to provide a better environment for tree growth.

**Alpine Park Pruning:** Public works has multiple budgets and sorting them out is more difficult than usual this year because of a mid-year change to a new computer program. Bob thought there was \$5000 still available in one of those budgets for pruning in Alpine Park, but Jan has said that is not the case.

**Shade Tree Program:** Nine homeowners contacted the tree board to indicate they would be interested in purchasing a shade tree for their front yard at a reduced price. Tree board would have to place a minimum order of 20 trees with the Reforest Colorado program by December 15, and at this point most of the species have been sold out. We'll start earlier next year and perhaps go in with Poncha Springs or BV on an order.

**Work Plan:** Marilyn will submit the 2013 work plan with the Tree City USA application. Tree board reviewed the plan and updated it for 2014 to include treating the American elms for soft

scale and monitoring for emerald ash borer. We will look at the tree inventory and select 8-10 green ash in ROWs around the city to be checked for the D-shaped exit holes.

**Snow Removal:** Snow plowing downtown has broken branches on some of the older, larger trees. Kevin thinks that the using the grader, which has a cab narrower than the wheels, to plow at the curb would prevent further damage.

**NRC Trees:** The landscaper at the NRC did not put deer protection around the new trees, and they all have been badly damaged. The contractor is obligated to replace any that die within the first year, and we will know by June which ones have not survived.

**Landscaping for New Construction:** Marilyn will let Michael Yerman know that tree board would like to review the developer's landscape plans for the new subdivision north of Marvin Park. Also, tree board may want to review and recommend changes to the ordinance pertaining to landscaping requirements for new homes.

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 14, 8 am, Café Dawn.**