

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
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www.cityofsalida.com



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

Tree Board Meeting February 11, 2014

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Tom Jacobson, Marilyn Moore, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Also Present: Vern Davis, Jim Dickson, Dara McDonald, Lisa Pappenfort, Kathy Ringler, Linda Taylor

Budget: Dara and Jan had asked tree board to submit a budget that included tree pruning, removals, and replacement as well as funding for the Adopt-a-Tree program. Tree Board requested \$40,000 for pruning and removals through-out the city, \$6,000 for replacement trees, \$10,000 to finish the pruning in Riverside Park and \$3,000 for the Adopt-a-Tree program for trees that do not replace a tree that was removed. The 2014 budget granted tree board \$20,000 only, with no restrictions on how that money is spent. Removal, pruning and replacement trees on H Street are included in the budget for that project.

Pruning vs. Removals: The resident at F and 11th requested that her three trees on F be put on the pruning list 7 years ago. This past summer Terra Firma Forestry showed up to *remove* the trees, saying the city told her it was cheaper to remove them than to prune them! We are losing too many of our old shade trees in Salida – let's not remove any unnecessarily!

H Street: City council has voted to widen the h Street parkways to 6 feet, narrowing the street by 3 feet. For now, that will permit us to leave the trees that are not in terrible condition, and also to replant with medium shade tree species. Bob would like a list of the trees that should be removed within a week or so. Kathryn and Marilyn will look again at those trees that are slated for removal. Bob would also like tree board to submit contract specifications related to trees for the H Street project. Kathryn will work up a draft and send it out to board members for comment. If subsequently, some of the trees that are left must be removed for sidewalk replacement and the new curb is damaged, the damage will be repaired.

There will be a public meeting on March 3 regarding the H Street project to provide information on the schedule, engineering, etc.

Heaved Sidewalks: The city has a contract with Y&K Construction to pull sidewalk slabs throughout the city that have been heaved by tree roots. The sidewalk will temporarily be replaced by road base until a decision is made on replacement. This will give tree board an opportunity to look at the roots and determine if one or two offending roots can be cut or if there are so many that must be cut that a hazardous tree would be created. It will also give tree board an opportunity to suggest alternatives such as rerouting the sidewalk, slabjacking, or installing a ramp. The sidewalks must be ADA compliant, but the ADA apparently permits sidewalks that are only 3 feet wide over a short distance. There is \$100,000 in the city budget this year for sidewalk replacement.

Shade Tree Program: Tree board will continue to investigate implementing a program that would make shade tree species available to homeowners to plant in their irrigated front yards, as we cannot plant these species in the 4 foot parkways. The public attending the board meeting thought this was a great idea! When this idea was suggested several years ago, the then-city attorney and the then-administrator said we could not use city funds to plant trees on private property. There may be trees available through the Colorado Tree Coalition at reduced price to the homeowner and no cost to the city.

Tree Ordinance: By ordinance, only small, ornamental trees are allowed in the 4 foot wide parkways. Do we want to change the ordinance to allow at least medium shade tree species, recognizing that they will likely eventually create the very sidewalk and curb problems we are dealing with now? That would be acceptable to many Salida citizens. According to a University of Florida website, "Many concrete sidewalks are only meant to last 25 years so they deteriorate with or without trees."

Tree Survey: We cannot create a tree management plan for the city until we have a comprehensive survey of the city trees. Kevin Crowley has a couple of Eagle Scouts who could identify the GPS coordinates for the trees, but that information is meaningless unless we also know the species and the condition of the trees. We can request money in the 2015 budget to either hire someone to do the survey or to train volunteers.

Pruning Workshop for PW: Bob's crew have been going out and pruning trees where limbs are interfering with snowplows and street sweepers. Their work has been criticized as less than professional, and they suggest that Angie Jensen of Terra Firma Forestry could give them a pruning workshop.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 8 am, Cafe Dawn