

# Salida Tree Board

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

## **Tree Board Meeting March 11, 2014**

**Members Present:** Susan Felt, Jill Flodstrom, Marilyn Moore, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

**Also Present:** Angie Jensen, Terra Firma Forestry; Dara McDonald, city administrator

**H Street Tree Removals:** A total of 11 trees will be removed on H Street. In addition to the five that tree board recommended be removed, two will need to be removed because the city will no longer allow diagonal ramps to the intersection (800 H and 905 H). A second elm will be removed at 707 H at the homeowner's request. At 927 H, the sidewalk is severely heaved by huge tree roots. The homeowner is not willing to give the city an easement to reroute a new sidewalk onto his property, so these three trees will be removed. Where pulling the stumps of the removed trees damages the sidewalk, the city will replace the sidewalk.

**PW Crew Pruning:** Several of the public works employees have been pruning the trees in the right-of-ways in order to create a 10 foot clearance for the snowplows and street sweepers. Angie spent several hours with them trying to demonstrate correct pruning, as they do not have the appropriate tools for pruning the young, ornamental trees or understand how to make proper cuts. If Kevin Crowley is agreeable, Angie and Marilyn will go out with Lynn and correct the bad pruning cuts and continue pruning the young trees west of F Street.

**Change Tree Ordinance:** Restricting new trees in the 4 foot city right-of-ways to smaller ornamental species is creating problems with clearance for pedestrians as well as vehicles and city equipment. Tree board is suggesting that medium shade tree species that can be pruned higher without destroying the structure of the tree should be allowed in the right-of-ways. If they eventually create problems with the sidewalk or curbs, they can be removed and replaced. Dara will make that recommendation to council in her administrator's report on March 18, and if they approve, she will draft a new ordinance.

**Budget:** The city has budgeted \$20,000 to tree board for tree planting, pruning and removal. Marilyn suggested that we should continue to allocate at least \$2000 for the

Adopt-a-Tree program. We had requested \$5000 to finish pruning the east side of Riverside Park. Kathryn and Marilyn will evaluate the trees and decide which need to be pruned because of safety concerns and which would be candidates for removal, then put out a RFP. The city can lease its lift to the arborist if necessary. The balance of the budgeted money can be used for pruning and removals in the city right-of-ways. Angie suggested that the pruning effort should be directed to those trees that are about 10 years old.

**Tree Inventory:** Susan said her son would like to do a GPS inventory of the city trees as a service project. He would need to be trained to identify species and evaluate the condition of each tree.

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 8 am, Cafe Dawn**