

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
448 E. 1st Street, Suite 112
719-539-4555
www.cityofsalida.com



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

Board Meeting November 10, 2015

Members Present: Jill Flodstrom, Kathryn Hardgrave, Tom Jacobson, Marilyn Moore, Dan Osborn, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Also Present: Andrew Mackie, Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas; Danielle Campbell, Community Development Intern

Salida Trail Ecological Restoration Project: Tom Jacobson, who lives adjacent to the Salida Trail, has suggested that tree board needs to be in the loop regarding this project, as he has learned it will involve the removal of the Russian olives as well as the planting of new trees. Andrew explained that the project is a joint effort of LTUA, SPOT, and GARNA, with no one organization or individual assuming responsibility for coordination. The olives are to be removed in phases and replaced with New Mexico privet, and habitat islands of native species have been created.

In addition to the Russian olives, there are a number of other invasive species that the project is trying to bring under control. The project has received \$56,000 in grant monies to hire SW Conservation Corps adult and youth crews and has also received considerable volunteer support. There is likely to be considerable public outcry as the Russian olives are removed, and tree board suggested that there needs to be communication with the public about the project beyond just announcing the volunteer work days, i.e. what is the scope of the project, why is it necessary, what will be the ultimate result.

There is also concern about appropriate after care, particularly watering. Andrew said that volunteers are trying to get out three times a week to water, but acknowledged that it doesn't always happen. He would welcome more volunteers to help with watering. Jill indicated that she might be able to help. Jake agreed to be a liaison between tree board and the organizations working on the trail restoration.

Arborist Licensing: Adams Tree Service was to have removed six trees in the city ROWs, but his license has now expired. Marilyn in particular is reluctant to allow him to renew his license to prune and remove, as he will take likely advantage of that license, as he did this spring, and top trees. Tree board has suggested a two tiered license either to

prune and remove or remove only, but the revision to the arborist licensing ordinance will require council approval and take at least a month. Meanwhile, Adams is threatening to sue the city for loss of livelihood, though as a requirement of licensing, he has signed a statement acknowledging that failure to adhere to the Salida Pruning Regulations, which forbids topping of trees, may result in suspension or revocation of the license. Marilyn will meet with Dara discuss the issue.

2016 Budget: Dan and Marilyn both understood and reported at the meeting that there was NO money in the 2016 budget allocated to tree board. However, apparently what was cut from the 2016 city budget was \$30,000 of the \$42,000 that tree board had requested for 2016, *not the entire tree board budget*. That leaves our usual \$12,000. So we do have some money for planting, pruning and removals, but hardly enough to even begin addressing the tremendous backlog of tree work that needs to be done in the city. And with such limited funds, a GIS inventory and Merit injections for elm scale are probably not affordable unless we cut pruning and removals.

CO-TreeView: Kathryn distributed information about CO-TreeView, a free tree inventory and mapping tool made available to Colorado communities by the Colorado Tree Coalition. We may find it helpful in creating a Salida tree inventory. It is user friendly and does not require software or GIS knowledge. Tree data (location, species, size, condition, etc.) is easily collected on a tablet, another mobile device, or PC and web browser. By creating an account, the city can query the inventory, generate reports, and better manage the city-owned trees. The collected information can be imported into ArcGIS. There is more information at cotreeview.com

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 8 am at River's Edge