

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
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www.cityofsalida.com



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

Board Meeting October 11, 2016

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

Also Present: Dave Hinman, Public Works/GIS; Jim LiVecchi, Mayor; Steve Rabe, Interim City Administrator

Tree Inventory: Dave and Marilyn presented the results of the GPS tree inventory to city council at a budget work session October 3. Briefly, a total of 1506 trees were inventoried - 143 trees were dead or dying and need to be removed, 106 have safety issues and need to be pruned to address those issues, and 697 require routine pruning including 26 that can be pruned by volunteers. Additionally, it was noted that 241 trees are greater than 25" in diameter and are likely to nearing the end of their lives. The inventory also noted that the American elms all need to be treated for soft scale. Kathryn suggested that the inventory data could also be stored in the Colorado Tree Coalition's CO-Tree program, which includes tools to calculate the dollar value of a city's trees.

Budget Request to City Council: Marilyn, representing tree board, reviewed the tree board's expenses to date: Park trees: \$5,000 to prune in the east end of Riverside, the remaining \$4500 to be used to prune the elms in the north end of Thonoff. Street trees: \$2203 for the Adopt-a-Tree Program, \$2000 for the GIS inventory, the remaining \$5797 to be used to remove 6 or more trees.

For 2017, tree board is requesting \$1000 to inventory the trees in the city parks, \$5000 to prune the south end of Thonoff, \$30,000 for the removal and safety pruning of trees, particularly on D, F, G, and H Streets (for starters!), \$2,000 for Merit injections of American elms, \$4000 to purchase and plant 18 – 20 adopted trees, and \$500 to install PVC pipe for deep root irrigation of the downtown trees for a total budget request of \$42,500. Steve indicated that that request would be fully funded in the 2017 city budget.

Arborist Bids: Complete Tree Care has bid \$4700 to remove 8 trees including the enormous cottonwood on W. 3rd (\$2500) by the end of the year. For 2017, Steve suggested putting the removals and the safety pruning on D, F, G, and H Streets out for bids from several arborists. Given the volume of work, tree companies such as Mission

Ready in Canon City and others would likely be willing to travel to Salida. Bob would like Terra Firma Forestry to do sign clearing downtown.

Bids for Adopted Trees: Kathryn reported that the BV tree board ordered their trees from Little Valley Nursery in Brighton after they gave them the best bid on prices and that the tree board was very happy with the quality of the trees Little Valley delivered. Salida tree board has had a long-standing relationship first with Denoyer's and now with Brady's, but we could certainly start advertising the Adopt-a-Tree program in early spring, evaluate sites, get homeowner input on species selection, and put a list of trees out for bid to several nurseries including Brady's and Little Valley.

Trees on Private Property: Jim has not yet talked with the city attorney about somehow making funds available to homeowners who would plant large shade tree species in their irrigated lawns.

Update Land Use Code: PT Wood has been out of town and Jake has not yet been able to get together with him about possibly revising the land use code as it pertains to developers planting trees in subdivisions, requiring that the trees be properly planted, watered, and maintained with perhaps a minimum three years' survival.

Guide to Salida Trees: At the council work session, Marilyn submitted the tree board work plan for 2017, which included applying for a Colorado Tree Coalition grant to revise and update the *Guide to Salida Trees* that is posted on the city website. Jake will get in touch with Mark Wiard to find out how costly that project might be. The CTC would require matching funding.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, November 8, 8 am, Touber Building, Methodist Mountain Room (on left just inside main entrance)