

Salida Tree Board

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

Board Meeting December 13, 2016

Present: Dave Hinman, Tom Jacobson, M'Lynne Kenney, David Lady, Marilyn Moore, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Tree Inventory: Dave Hinman reported that the inventory of city street and park trees, including the waste water treatment plant, the USFS facility, and the trees along the Salida Trail and the River trail totaled 2202 trees. The group discussed how to keep the data updated with removals, pruning and planting entered into the inventory as they occur. The Colorado Tree Coalition has a program, CO-Tree, into which Dave can upload the data from the GIS inventory and which has the advantage that the data could be managed from a home computer. We will go ahead and sign up for the program and see if and how it would work for us. It was also agreed that the inventory should be repeated in 10 years, as the condition of many trees will likely deteriorate during that time.

Watering Downtown Trees: David talked with the Rootwell company and got a sample of their watering device, a 4" x 18" plastic mesh cylinder that would be filled with water using a hose-end nozzle. For the trees downtown, two per tree well would probably be adequate. A soil excavation unit could be used to remove soil so the tube could be installed with minimal damage to the roots. The Rootwell units run \$145 per case of 20. We will order one case and try them out next April on five of the most problematic trees.

Bob cautioned again that the biggest trees should come out soon, before they become too difficult to remove.

Tree Removals, Safety Pruning: The inventory identified 10 trees of D, F, G, and H Streets that need to be removed (4 have since been removed) and 27 trees on those streets that need immediate safety pruning. For 2017, tree board has budgeted \$30,000 for pruning and removals. We will put together a list of these trees, adding others if money allows, and put the project out to bid to area tree services including in Canon City, Alamosa, and Gunnison.

Landscape Requirements, Land Use Code: Jake has been in touch with PT Wood, chair of the planning and zoning commission, about the requirements in the land use code

regarding tree planting and care in new developments. Specifically, there are concerns that there need to be standards for planting, provision for adequate watering in winter as well as during the growing season, a realistic indemnification period of 2 – 3 years, and a process for inspecting the trees for proper planting and adequate care. M'Lynne suggested that tree board be prepared to make a presentation to P&Z about updating the land use code to address these concerns.

River Trail: There are trees along the River Trail that may be hazardous, particularly when it is windy. Some of these trees are on private property, others may be part of AHRA. There may be documents in the maintenance plan and the easement agreements that address coordinating tree maintenance and removals. Bob can contact Dan Osborn, the former community development director, and ask about this.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 10, 8 am, Methodist Mountain Room in the Touber Building