

Salida Tree Board

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

Tree Board Meeting May 12, 2015

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

Arbor Day: Arbor Day will be celebrated on Thursday, May 14. Beginning at 1:45, Michelle Ludwig's fourth grade class will help plant a 'Sensation' boxelder on the grounds of Longfellow.

Downed Tree: Kevin reported that a large tree came down onto Poncha Boulevard in the last storm. The tree was dead with extensive decay, and the homeowner says there is another tree in the right-of-way in the same condition that should be removed. The tree is beneath power lines, so public works will not touch it!

Other Tree Removals: Marilyn has asked Dufur Tree Service to give us an estimate on removing the large cottonwood on W. 3rd, the badly damaged Siberian elm in Alpine, and the Siberian elm in Riverside with the electrical line running under it. Angie thought she could prune the elm in Alpine and have a reasonable-looking tree left. Kevin said that tree is a chronic problem and he would prefer to have it removed.

Topped Trees: Adams Tree Service has been topping trees, claiming they were storm damaged and he had no choice. The city Tree Pruning Specifications specifically say that storm-damaged trees may not be topped. Arborists are required to sign a statement saying they understand that failure to adhere to the Pruning Specifications may result in their license being revoked. Marilyn has contacted Becky Wegner, a consulting arborist, and will send her pictures of the trees. The pictures may be sufficient for her to render an opinion, or she may need to travel to Salida to look at the trees, which could cost \$300 or more. In any case, Adams' license will not be renewed when it expires!

Adopt-a-Tree: We have received 15 applications to adopt trees, several requesting two trees. Three of the applications are to replace trees removed in the course of the H Street project. Marilyn will evaluate each site for suitability. There may not be enough money remaining in the tree board budget to plant trees in all the suitable sites.

Memorial Trees: The proposal for memorial trees presented by Jamie Hartig required replacing two crabapples next to the walk along the river west of the bandstand and lining the edge of the walk with engraved bricks. However, the crabapples are each within ten feet or so of what will ultimately be two enormous cottonwoods, so that plan is not going to work. Kelly Finkowski, who has a background in landscape design, will be doing another internship with Community Development, and Dan will have her work on a proposal.

Shade Tree Program: Jill reported that there was definitely a learning curve with the shade tree program. There were problems with the bookkeeping in particular. Jill and Susan Felt made a trip to the Front Range to pick up the trees. Jill had added a \$15 delivery fee to the cost of the trees (most were \$55), but Susan Felt donated her time, the use of her trailer, and the gas. One homeowner purchased three trees, and Jill offered to return the fee for two trees. The board discussed returning the delivery fee to all the homeowners, but agreed to put it into a fund to purchase more trees. Also, some purchasers were unhappy with their tree. In one case, the tree was damaged, and tree board offered to return the homeowner's money. The timing of delivery was not good either: the trees for the Trees Across Colorado program are brought in from Oregon, some were in full leaf and froze when they got to Salida. Tree board will need to discuss further whether we want to offer this program again. If so, we will need to give a better description of the trees.

Trees for Planting Pockets?: Gary Lacy has been setting boulders along the city easement behind his building, Recreation Engineering and Planning, and Absolute Bikes to better define the path down to the river and the put-in. He has left several planting pockets for trees and wondered if the city could donate trees. Dan suggested that we could use the money from the "delivery fund". Diana will let him know what the fund totals, and Marilyn will find out what trees (in various sizes) would cost.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 8 AM, River's Edge