

# Salida Tree Board

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

## **Board Meeting June 9, 2015**

**Members Present:** Tom Jacobson, Marilyn Moore, Dan Osborn, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

**Also Present:** Kelly Finkowski, Community Development Intern

**Arbor Day Donations:** Diana reported that so far, Arbor Day donations have totaled only \$175. About 50 letters requesting donations went out, including letters to recent tree adopters. We should consider rewriting the letter. Did the Mountain Mail article about Arbor Day generate any donations?

**Tenderfoot Trees:** Bob commented that he would really like to see trees planted on the front of Tenderfoot Mountain. Thirty pinyon seedlings could be purchased from the Colorado State Forest Service for \$75. The Southwest Conservation Corps could perhaps be enlisted to plant them within 50 feet of the trails. Getting water to the seedlings and protecting them from browsers would be a challenge. Would this be a better project for SPOT or Salida Mountain Trails?

**2016 Budget Request:** The board discussed items for the 2016 tree board budget. We would like to be able to plant more than the usual 10 adopted trees in the city right-of-ways: request \$4000 to purchase and plant 20 trees. There is a huge backlog of mature trees on the city right-of-ways that need to be pruned and dead and dying trees that need to be removed: request \$25,000 to begin to make a dent in the backlog. Finish pruning in Riverside Park (east side): request \$5000. GIS Tree Inventory so we have a better idea of what we have and the work that needs to be done: request \$6,000. Do we want to treat the American elms for scale? How would we estimate that cost?

**Memorial Trees:** The location that Jamie Hartig suggested for memorial trees in Riverside is not going to work – too close to existing cottonwoods. Maybe close to the river in front of the SteamPlant? Kelly will work on a proposal. We will go through the old tree board files and try to find out in whose memory donations to the memorial fund were made. Following the meeting, Kathryn did some digging through old minutes. The first donations for a memorial park were made by Salida Building and Trust (now High Country Bank) during their dress down days. \$698.67 was placed into a separate memorial account at the

end of December 1999, and subsequent donations brought the balance up to about \$1000. The minutes all refer to *Thonoff* Memorial Park.

**Adams Topping Trees:** Adams Tree Service has topped a number of trees in town though the pruning specifications specifically forbid topping, including topping storm-damaged trees to remove broken limbs. Licensed arborists sign a statement acknowledging that failure to adhere to the specifications is grounds for revocation of the license. The ordinance states that a consulting arborist must make the judgment that the trees were topped. Jake took pictures of the topped trees and they were sent to Becky Wegner of Mountain High Tree Service in Colorado Springs for her opinion. Becky asked if there were pictures of the trees before they were topped. Cheryl Clark had a picture on her computer from Mr. Adams that showed “before” but she has not been able to find it. So we are stalled at this point. In any case, Mr. Adams’ license will not be renewed. Dan asked if we could issue him a license but limit the permitted work to removals only. A question for Carl Hanlon?

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, July 14, 8 am, River’s Edge**