

Salida Tree Board

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

TREE BOARD MEETING November 11, 2014

Members present: Jill Flodstrom, Tom Jacobson, Marilyn Moore

H Street Trees: Fourteen trees were removed in the course of the H Street project. Do we want to distribute Adopt-a-Tree applications to all the homeowners from 3rd to 10th streets or direct them to the city website to download an application? Jake suggested that asking homeowners interested in adopting a new street tree to contribute \$50 towards the cost to purchase and plant would show their commitment to caring for the tree.

Shade Tree Program: Jill reported that she has applications for 24 shade trees for residents to plant in their front yards – two bundles of five trees each bare-root Japanese tree lilacs and Spring Snow crabs, two golden rain trees and three red oaks in grow bags, and three hackberries, three swamp white oak, one bur oak, and one big-tooth maple, all balled and burlapped. The bundles are \$25 each, the red oaks are \$95 each, and the remainder are \$55 each. Total cost of the order will be \$1170, with half due to Trees Across Colorado in January and half in April. Fifteen dollars will be added to the cost of each bundle or tree for pick-up and delivery, and Susan Felt has offered her trailer to go pick up the trees in Denver in April. Jill wondered about giving polymers to homeowners to add to the soil when they plant the trees.

Riverside Pruning and Inspections: Terra Firma Forestry brought three ISA certified arborists from the Front Range who pruned the dead wood and branches with poor structure out of the massive willow east of the band shell and crown-cleaned three Siberian elms around the volleyball court. They inspected a crack in the willow behind the Scout Hut and determined that it appears to be sealing over and that the tree is growing vigorously. They climbed into the two huge cottonwoods and determined that there was no decay in the canopies that would warrant removal or a drastic reduction trim and that these trees, too, were growing vigorously despite their age. They recommended having the trees trimmed and inspected every three to five years. Cost of the tree work was \$5000.

High School Trees: The city of Salida agreed to replace the American elms on D and on 9th that were removed when the old high school was torn down and the sidewalk was replaced. Six ornamental pears were planted along D and four were planted on 9th. The cost was \$1300 plus whatever it cost to purchase wire to protect the trees from the deer.

Trees Removed for Sidewalk Replacement: There were 19 trees in very poor health that were removed before the adjacent sidewalk was replaced. Cost of the removals was \$5500. Smaller

limbs and branches were chipped for mulch at the reservoir. The larger limbs were hauled away at no charge by a fire wood dealer in Poncha Springs. Public works will pull the stumps.

Budget: Spring pruning of young street trees by Terra Firma Forestry and tree board volunteers cost \$1000. The cost to purchase and plant ten adopted trees and a replacement tree downtown was \$2965. Pruning in Riverside was \$5000, cost to remove the 19 trees was \$5500, and the cost to purchase the high school trees was \$1300. Approximately \$4000 remains in the tree board budget for 2014. Marilyn met with Angie at Alpine Park and they agreed that she would do as much pruning as possible in the park, giving priority to trees adjacent to picnic tables. However she may not be able to get the work done before the end of the year. Marilyn spoke to Jan Schmidt, and she said the money could be carried over to 2015 subject to council approval.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, December 9, 8 am, River's Edge