

Salida Tree Board

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

Tree Board Meeting April 12, 2016

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Marilyn Moore, Dan Osborne, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Also Present: Jim LeVicchi, Salida Mayor

Memorial Donations: Dara has asked Cheryl Clark to meet with SPOT (Donna Rhoads), Salida Rec (Theresa Casey), Tree Board (Marilyn), and Community Development (Dan) to create a policy regarding memorial donations for benches, rocks and trees. Community Development intern Kelli Finkowski had created a design for a seating area around an existing tree in Thonoff Park paved with bricks that can be inscribed as memorials. However, the cost could be as much as \$10,000. One of the group (Theresa?) suggested a wall-hung tree sculpture with leaves inscribed with the names of loved ones in whose names donations were made to the Salida tree program. That might fit our budget! Marilyn will speak to Librarian Susan Matthews to see if there might be a spot at the library for such a memorial sculpture, where it would be seen much more than at the Toubert Building. Dave Hinman will GPS the existing memorial benches, rocks, and trees.

Arbor Day Program: Arbor Day is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 12, at 1 PM at a location yet to be determined. An Arbor Day proclamation will be read at the city council meeting on May 3, and Mayor LeVicchi will read it again after the Arbor Day tree is planted. Kathryn, Marilyn and Diana will work on an Arbor Day letter and article.

Adopt-a-Tree Program: We will begin to advertise the Adopt-a-Tree program soon. We already have 6 or so applications which came in after last year's program was ended. For their program, the BV tree board ordered a variety of species of 2" B&B trees from Little Valley Nursery in Denver, which they found had the best prices and would even deliver. For our program, we give the homeowner a choice of species appropriate for their site, which would make pre-ordering trees unworkable. BV found that Brady's trees were the most expensive.

Tree Tags: Kathryn had emailed out an example of a tree tag from the Alaska Division of Forestry that identifies the species and lists many of the benefits that trees provide.

She suggested that we could make some similar tags out of card stock, maybe for the younger trees in Riverside for Earth Day?

River Trail: There is some pruning of existing trees and restoration that is still to be done along the River Trail. Dan will be planting narrow-leaf cottonwoods and reported that Kevin Crowley would also like to try some ponderosas on the berms behind Marvin Park.

Watering Downtown Trees: PW employees reported that water is running off the soil on some of the downtown trees rather than soaking in. Kathryn suggested trying a root waterer that gets pushed into the soil several inches, and Marilyn will lend hers to PW to see if that solves the problem. If it works we can purchase one for PW.

“Scar” on S Mountain: Jim was contacted by a citizen concerned about the “scar” that was left when the electrical line to the top of S Mountain was buried. He suggested that the area should be revegetated using a mesh with quick-growing native grasses such as CDOT uses. Tree board members agreed that the “scar” was not particularly apparent and didn’t really need to be addressed.

Licensed Arborists: Complete Tree Care has bought out Dufur Tree Service. They have submitted a license application and proof of insurance and taken the tree test. The boss of the outfit is ISA certified, which bodes well. Adams Tree Service still has not removed the 6 trees that were to have come out last fall. Marilyn will contact Complete and see if they will give an estimate for the removals. It is not likely to be cheaper than Adams.

No May Meeting: The Arbor Day tree planting will take the place of our May meeting.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, June 7, 8 am, at River’s Edge