

# Salida Tree Board

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

## **Board Meeting March 14, 2017**

**Members Present:** Dave Hinman, M'Lynne Kenny, David Lady, Marilyn Moore, Diana Smith

**Also Present:** Guy Patterson, City Administrator; Angie Jensen, Terra Firma Forestry

**Welcome:** Board members welcomed new city administrator Guy Patterson. They explained that the role of the tree board is largely advisory, though we do administer the city's Adopt-a-Tree program. Tree maintenance in Salida has been under-funded for years. In 2016, Dave Hinman completed a GIS inventory and evaluation of about 2,200 trees in the city right-of-ways, parks, along the Salida trail, at the SteamPlant, and at the wastewater treatment plant. Most of the older trees require pruning, especially safety pruning where there are dead limbs, hangers, etc., or removal because they are dead or dying. On the strength of the inventory, council budgeted \$35,000 to the tree board of which \$30,000 will be used for removals and pruning. David estimated that at that level, there is 3 – 4 years of tree work to be completed.

**Pruning and Removals:** David created a door hanger to let homeowners know that the tree(s) in the right-of-way in front of their house would be pruned or removed soon, and another to let the homeowner know what day the work would be performed. At no cost to the city, Angie has spent a lot of her own time distributing the door hangers, talking at length with homeowners, etc. Some of the homeowners have been pretty mean to her!

Tree board recommended that removals and pruning on streets D through G should be prioritized, as those streets are heavily traveled and dead trees or trees with safety issues pose a hazard to drivers and pedestrians. Angie has just about finished up the removals and will begin the pruning, focusing first on trees closest to down town, and she will continue in those blocks until the money runs out. She will also spend a little time downtown doing sign clearance and structural pruning.

**Dead/Dying Trees on Poncha Blvd:** If Excel can be persuaded to cut the trees until they are more than 10' below the high voltage power lines, then Angie or another licensed arborist can take them out. David will contact Excel.

**Hunt Street Project:** There was a meeting with the residents of Hunt Street led by Joe DeLuca, Project Manager for Crabtree Group. Joe gave an overview of the project and answered resident's concerns. There are only three trees of any size to be removed. Marilyn let people know that if they would like a tree in the space between the new curb and sidewalk, they could apply to adopt a tree, and the site could be prepared, with good soil, in the course of the project. One application has been received so far.

**Riverside, Downtown Trees:** Angie says that the Rotary trees in Riverside were planted too deep and the soil around the base of the trees needs to be removed or the trees will die. Likewise, soil has accumulated in the grates around the downtown trees and needs to be removed down to the root flare. This should help with the watering problem, too. The angle irons holding the grates even with the sidewalk have rusted away in some of the grates, and we need to devise a way to prop the grates up.

**CO-Tree View:** Dave is working to get the GIS tree inventory uploaded into the CO-Tree program, but there seem to be compatibility issues. He will continue to try as the program has some special features and would be accessible to the public.

**Arbor Day:** Arbor Day will be celebrated on May 17 with a tree planting. We will be working with a new teacher this year, as Michelle Ludwig has retired. Deb Colgate is enthusiastic about having her class participate and learn the importance and value of trees.

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 11, 8 am, Methodist Mountain Room in the Touber Building**