

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
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www.cityofsalida.com



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

Board Meeting July 11, 2017

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Dave Hinman, Tom Jacobson, David Lady, Marilyn Moore, Diana Smith, Erika Vohman

Also Present: Mayor Jim LiVecchi

Adding Parking Downtown: Jim informed tree board of tentative plans to increase parking downtown. At Alpine Park, 4th and 5th Streets on the north and south sides of the park would be widened 10 feet to add 44 ninety degree parking spaces. In theory, visitors would park on these streets and walk down towards the river, patronizing businesses along the way. To implement this plan, three American elms along 4th would have to be removed. Additionally, the median between G Street and the AHRA lot between 1st and Sackett, which contains 7 trees, would be removed to create additional paved parking. These trees are not in good shape as they do not get irrigation, but the planter does create a visual barrier in what would otherwise be a hot expanse of asphalt. The tree board would be very reluctant to see the trees, especially the American elms, come down, as we are already losing so many trees to essential infrastructure projects. Jake will draft a letter to council asking them to reconsider and reconfigure the proposed parking designs on 4th and 5th Streets adjacent to Alpine Park and on G Street north of the skate park in order to preserve the trees. Lacking that, the budget for the projects should include money to plant replacement trees in the park.

More Removals: Dave reported that a Siberian elm was removed at 140 D for curb repair and another at 3rd and D to make way for a sidewalk ramp. There are three more elms in the right-of-way by the Crabtree group that may also need to come out next year. A large Siberian elm by the entrance to the Salida museum was removed to make way for a train engine to be moved there.

Adopt-a-Tree Program: Sixteen trees were adopted, three of them in the new parkways on Hunt Street. A tree at 632 F with significant safety issues was overlooked when Terra Firma was pruning trees this spring, and \$740 of the tree planting budget was used to prune that tree. There are two trees at 1110 F that also have serious safety issues, but there was not enough remaining in the tree board budget to prune them this year. (Angie

estimated \$1500 to do the two trees.)

Palmer Street Project: David was unable to say how many, or if any, trees would be coming out on Palmer Street. The 9 foot wide (!) parkways will be filled with bio-retentive soil, and curb-cuts will allow water to percolate into the parkways. We have already received one application to adopt a tree to be planted next spring. When infrastructure projects impact trees, money to replace and plant new trees should be included in project budgets.

Tree Protection: Jake and Marilyn will install coco fiber mulch mats around three of the younger trees at Riverside to see how well they work to protect the trees from mower and string trimmer injuries. If successful, we can install them around all the young trees. Protecting the trees from bikes that are leaned against them is another issue. Snow fencing would allow air circulation but would need to be staked. Having more bike racks would help, perhaps single, vertical pole racks?

Guide to Salida Trees: Jake has suggested that rather than revising the guide, we provide internet links to information on species that should do well in Salida. Lauren Giusti is leaving Salida, and Jake will suggest that she forward her files on the Guide to Mark Wiard.

Merit Injections: In past years, tree board has hired a PW employee to do the Merit injections, and Jake volunteered for the job another year. The injections are time-consuming and also create a wound in the tree, but application as a soil drench really irritates the earthworms. Jake will contact Jetco in Buena Vista to find out if they are certified for municipal applications. If so, we will get an estimate next spring to treat the trees in Alpine and Thonoff Parks.

Pines on River Trail: Only two of the new ponderosa along the River Trail behind Marvin Park appear to be getting watered. Donna Rhodes had been hand watering those new trees, and David will contact her. David thought that getting irrigation to those trees would be doable.

Emerald Ash Borer: The Colorado EAB Response team is hosting van tours on August 15 and 17 to visit infested sites around Boulder and give attendees experience diagnosing EAB in the field. Kathryn thinks it important that someone from Salida attend as we have a substantial number of ash trees in the city.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, August 8, 8 am, Methodist Mountain Room at the Toubert Building