

**Board Meeting
October 10, 2017**

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Dave Hinman, Marilyn Moore, Diana Smith, Will Taliaferro

Tree Guards: Diana was able to learn that the tree guards in front of the Buena Vista library were fabricated by a local company, Millstream Metal Works. According to the owner, the cost of the guards depends on the design and the number purchased, but would run about \$200-300. As well as the younger trees in Riverside Park, there are several trees in Alpine that would appreciate protection, and well as the street trees on lower F Street. Removing the grates around the downtown trees would create a trip hazard, so tree guards would somehow have to be integrated into the grates. Diana suggested that we could put the money in the memorial fund towards the purchase of the guards.

Soft Scale Treatments for American Elms: Jake has been in touch with Mark at Jetco. Mark has no experience with spraying Merit or horticultural oil, and he is reluctant to spray in a public park. (The oil at least would pose no hazard to people.) Jake thinks that Merit injections may be our best bet; he will try to get pricing and suggests that we should budget at least \$3000 to purchase the Merit. Additionally, we may need to hire out the work.

Removals, Pruning: Dave reported that in 2017, 90 street and park trees have been removed, including 10 trees for the pickle-ball courts and one elm in the way of the Scout Hut renovations. Of those 90, 21 were small trees easily removed by public works, and 53 were identified as dead and/or hazardous trees in the inventory. Eighteen street trees have been pruned. Dave suggested that for 2018, we need to decide where to focus our removal and pruning efforts. Dave and Marilyn will look at the inventory and come up with a proposal.

Work Plan, Budget Request: At the city council meeting October 17, Marilyn will present the tree board work plan for 2018 and a budget request. There are only minor changes to the work plan from year to year. From the 2017 work plan, we will delete GIS Inventory Park Trees and PVC Pipe in Tree Grates, and add Clean Out/Maintain Tree Grates.

Board members looked at last year's budget requests and suggested the following: \$4000 for the Adopt-a-Tree program, \$30,000 for pruning and removals including clearance pruning for business signs downtown, at least \$2000 to purchase tree guards and coco

fiber tree mats, and at least \$3000 for Merit injections. Marilyn will meet with David Lady to finalize the street tree budget requests, which are included in the Public Works budget request.

Buena Vista Tree Removals: Kathryn reported that BV is contracting with an Evergreen tree service, Splintered Forest LLC., for some tree removals. Splintered Forest uses a knuckle boom which allows them to remove a tree very quickly and relatively inexpensively. This is something Salida may want to investigate if BV is happy with their work and gives a positive referral.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, December 12, 8 am, Methodist Mountain Room at the Touber Building