

Salida Tree Board

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

Board Meeting September 12, 2017

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

Also Present: Larry Lorentzen, City Administrator; Kevin Andreas, Toubert Building Maintenance

Merit Injections: Jetco has not yet gotten back to Jake on the cost of Merit injections or spray applications to treat the American elms for soft scale.

Parking at Alpine and AHRA: There has been no further mention of the scheme to take 10 feet off the north and south ends of Alpine Park and to remove the planter at AHRA to increase parking.

Tree Protection: The mowers do not report any problems with the coco fiber mulch mats that were installed around three younger trees at Riverside Park. As they seem to be working as intended to keep mowers and string trimmers away from the trunks, we could go ahead and put them around all the smaller trees. Diana sent tree board members photos of tree guards that were installed around young trees by the BV library. The librarian Marilyn spoke with thought they were custom made by a local blacksmith. Diana will try to reach him and find out the cost, etc.

Circular Bed at Riverside: The bed has turned into a fairly unsightly mess. PW intends to clean it up but not redo it. Getting the grass out will be a major chore and is unlikely to last.

Land Use Code: Revising the land use code is going to get underway soon, and tree board would like to be involved in revising those portions of the code that pertain to trees and landscaping, particularly in new developments. Larry commented that in order to facilitate affordable housing, the city is trying to reduce red tape for new construction. Tree board agreed that new construction still needs appropriate landscaping, even if requirements are reduced. Does anyone actually go and look at the newly planted trees and the trees one year later before returning the builder/developer's bond money? Perhaps someone from Community Development or the Planning Department should be a member of tree board or at least attend the tree board meetings when subdivision issues come up.

2018 Tree Board Budget: David will again request \$42,500 for tree protection, planting, pruning, removals, and soft scale treatment. Bid packets for the pruning and removals will go out in February.

Touber Building Tree Removals: Kevin informed tree board that three dead trees along C Street will be removed. He anticipates that the city and county will expand the parking on the west side of the building into the area south of the existing parking lot to create 20 additional spaces, which will require removing the two elms along First Street. He also proposed removing the large spruce on the west side of the walk to the main entrance and pruning back the spruce on the east side. There are two black locust growing into the common buckthorns in the southeast corner of the grounds and over-hanging First that he would like to remove, and also an American elm in the middle of the east side grounds that is in bad shape. The sprinkler system will need to be replaced in the next several years and that project may also negatively impact the trees.

When the meeting was adjourned, tree board went on to the grounds to look at the proposed removals and the location of the expanded parking lot. Construction of the lot will destroy much of the root systems of the two large spruce to the east of the proposed lot and almost certainly make them hazardous, so they would need to be removed, too. Jake proposed shifting the east side of the lot over to where the spruce will be removed to make space along the west side for planting trees. David had earlier suggested surfacing the new lot with porous paving, which would be tree-friendly, too. The east-most of the two elms along First is not worth pruning, but Kathryn suggested that as the new lot may not go in for several years, the west elm could be pruned and thoroughly, deeply watered before winter. Salida is pretty unique in still having American elms, and it would be nice to let this one live for at least a couple more years.

Kathryn suggested the spruce to the east of the main entrance should be pruned back but should definitely not be limbed up. Both black locusts are overhanging First, but it is only one limb on the east-most locust. Rather than removing the entire tree, just that limb could be removed, which would free up more money for pruning. The green ash in the east grounds should be removed. Instead of removing the American elm in the middle, tree board suggested using the money to prune the American elms along the side walk opposite the parking for city hall which have a lot of dead limbs that threaten parked cars. Kevin said any money he has left will go to general pruning once the ground is frozen.

Spruce Beetle?: Terra Firma Forestry will be removing several dead spruce that Angie believes have succumbed to spruce beetle, but Kathryn thinks it is more likely Ips beetle. Exposing the beetle galleries would tell us which one. Unlike spruce beetle, Ips beetle does not attack healthy trees.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, October 10, 8 am, Methodist Mountain Room at the Touber Building