

Salida Tree Board

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

Virtual Board Meeting November 10, 2020

Participants: Dave Hinman, Tom Jacobson, David Lady (briefly), Marilyn Moore, Diesel Post

Trees Planted 2020: Through the Adopt-a-Tree program, 20 trees were planted in the city rights-of-way. Additionally, five homeowners purchased a second tree and paid Curtis Milstein to plant it in the right-of-way. Cost to purchase the trees less the \$50 contribution from homeowners was \$2750. Labor and materials to plant the trees was \$2702.

Trees Removed 2020: Johnny Apple, from Crested Butte, removed 33 trees at a cost of \$15,000. The bid included grinding the stumps, but they did not have appropriate equipment, so in the end, only eight were ground and the rest were cut to eight-foot stumps that were pulled. Dave reported that the owner and his two employees were organized and efficient. Following the snow storm, they also pruned several damaged trees and did a good job. He would highly recommend that they be asked to submit bids to prune as well as remove trees next year. Curtis Milstein also dug out six recently planted adopted trees. Four of the trees were in the 400 block of Palmer. Winter 2019-2020 was exceedingly dry and inadequate irrigation on the part of the homeowners was likely partly to blame, but also the poor "soil" provided by the contractor.

Trees Pruned: There were 33 trees on the list of trees to be defective-pruned, but Terra Firma only got through about half the list before their focus necessarily shifted to dealing with storm damage.

Storm Damage: Public works spent about \$35,500 to pick up fallen limbs and prune damaged trees following the snow storm. Avalanche, Terra Firma, and Johnny Apple were contracted, and a great deal of work was done in-house as well. Dave assessed the city trees in the rights-of-ways and hangers and large broken limbs have been addressed, with further hazards removed as homeowners have notified the city. There is still tree damage along the Salida Trail that remains to be addressed.

Park Trees: Pruning to repair storm damage in Munoz and Thonoff parks alone cost \$15,00. There has been considerable public concern about the number of trees (6) that have been removed from Centennial. The intent was to plant new trees in Centennial this fall, but it got to be too late in the year to plant. Ideally, three new trees would be planted for every one removed. The plan is to plant 20-25 new trees in Centennial, Munoz, and Thonoff Parks. Diesel is investigating a grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition. New park trees will be properly planted by Parks & Rec employees, staked, with deer protection installed. The existing irrigation should be sufficient to get them established. Diesel would like to get more trees planted on the southeast side of town but available public land is lacking. As well as purchasing trees from Brady's, he would like to consider bringing in trees from the Front Range in a bulk order.

2021 Tree Budget: David said that the snow storm damage has been taken care of and does not require an increase in the 2021 tree budget for additional pruning. There is little change in the tree budget for 2021 vs. 2020. The Public Works budget for tree maintenance and planting is increased \$1,000 to \$40,000, the tree budget for Parks & Recreation is increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000, and the budget for the SteamPlant is unchanged at \$1,000.

New Tree Board Members: Diana Smith is resigning as a board member and as the tree board treasurer as she feels she is no longer making a contribution. Jake agreed to take over her duties as treasurer for now. Recruiting new members for the board has always been a pretty informal process and tree board has added new members without going through council. Deputy City Clerk Erin Kelley will research the process we should follow to add new members, ideally individuals knowledgeable about trees.