**Salida Tree Board Meeting**

**November 14, 2023**

**Present:** Marilyn Moore, Kris Cheskaty, Tom Jacobson, Christy Doon, Dave Hinman, Diesel Post, David Lady, Nate Mohrman, JT Shaver, Kelli Solis

**S Mountain Tree Seedling Planting:** Project is still in the conversation stage. The thought process is to place an order this fall for 200 to 300 seedlings to plant in the spring. It was suggested to try to harvest locally and plant local seedlings. Diesel suggested the Tree Board spearhead a local seed collection to re-tree S Mountain. The species being considered are Juniper, Ponderosa, Pinon and Sagebrush. JT will send the contact information for the new CSFS nursery manager to Nate.

**Arbor Day Tree City USA Materials:** Materials are received and placed in their proper locations.

**Tree Board Member Openings:** CJ has submitted his resignation to Salida City Council thereby opening the position for a new member. The position will be advertised as required, and more than one new member may be considered if there is interest. Christy suggested that all current members reapply.

**2024 Tree Budget, Bids:** We will continue to follow the Park Tree Plan from 2021. Areas of specific concern for City trees this year include Merit Spray treatment of scale on park elms and structural pruning of all adopted trees older than 5 years dating back to 1999 as necessary. The budget includes $5500 for street trees and $5000 for park trees. There is an RFP out for a new contract for an arborist to work with the City for the next 3 years. The suggestion continues that the Tree Board should request an arborist position in the budget.

**Planting / Pruning Along Salida Trail:**  Nate reported that 115 Box Elder and Choke Cherries were planted along Monarch Spur Trail in a joint project with GARNA, which assisted in getting the seedlings donated to the City. Seeds were collected locally and grown off-site for 3 years prior to being brought back for planting. The Russian Olives along the trail were pruned of suckers and treated with Tordon to prevent resprout. The Russian Olives will eventually be removed as the new plantings take hold. Lynn will water the plantings in the event of drought conditions.

**Poncha Blvd Trees:** Requests continue for Adopt-A-Trees in this area for the upcoming season. In preparation for these requests, the City placed native soil and irrigation sleeves at every residence fronting the Poncha Blvd project.

**Ribbons on Trees:** Diesel asked for input from the Tree Board regarding the numerous requests he receives to place ribbons on City trees to commemorate various events. It was suggested that City Council should make the determination of how to handle these requests. The Tree Board’s position is that it is best not to have any displays on public lands.

Nate reported that the Park tree cycle soaking method of watering follows best management practices and provides for a deeper penetration of moisture for the trees.

David Lady suggested the Tree Board review and comment on the Landscaping section of the LUC rewrite that references existing documents regarding private property and street right-of-ways, with a specific eye towards subdivision requirements. It may be that documents require updating and/or new documents be created.

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING:** TBD