



# TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street  
Erie, CO 80516

## Meeting Minutes Tree Advisory Board

---

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

6:30 PM

Virtual via Zoom

---

### **1. Call Meeting to Order @ 6:32 pm**

### **2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

- A. *Jason Shimmel (Chair), present*  
*Claudia Smelko (Vice Chair),*  
*Leanne Vielehr (Secretary), present*  
*Amy Demeyer, present*  
*Patricia O'Donnell, present*  
*Taylor Thomson, present*  
*Nathan Ruane, present*  
*Erie Council Liaisons: Brian O'Connor*  
*Agenda Item Guests: SAB- Mackenzie and Karen, Friends of Coal Creek- Casey*  
*Resident: Kelly Farmer*

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

- A. *Motion to move agenda item H. Fruit Tree Rescue to item B.*
  - a) *Motion: Taylor*
  - b) *Second: Amy*
- 2)
- B. *Approve amended agenda.*
  - a) *Motion: Nathan*
  - b) *Second: Patty*

### **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- A. *May 2025 Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes*
  - a) *Motion: Amy*
  - b) *Second: Patty*
- B. *June 2025 Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes*
  - a) *Motion: Nathan*
  - b) *Second: Taylor*
- C. *Jason to send approved minutes to Erie Town Clerk*

### **5. Public Comments**

- A. *Public Comment:*
  - 1) *none*

### **6. General Business**

- A. *Pollinator District*
  - 1) *Casey (Founder/Director) from Friends of Coal Creek*
    - a) *Friends of Coal Creek started 2 years ago to get people interested in the Creek*
    - b) *3 main goals including pollinator goal to create a Pollinator City (Through Butterfly Pavilion (BP), started in Lafayette and goal to have all Coal Creek municipalities included) Certification through Butterfly Pavilion takes several years to achieve.*
    - c) *Try to educate residents of how they can support and create a pollinator garden at home. Friends of Coal Creek, will certify private yards as a pollinator*

- habitat and draw a 400' radius around to show bee flight distance.*
- d) *Also do water quality advocacy for the Creek.*
  - e) *Lafayette started a Wildlife Plan and have been able to allocate funds towards pollinator gardens. Lafayette surveyed about 7 sites.*
  - f) *Manitou Springs has received their certification and BP wants to get the full front range get certified.*
  - g) *Emily wants to connect with Casey re: potential impacts to Coal Creek with HWY 7 roadway project.*
  - h) *Gamble Oaks great for supporting pollinator species.*
- 2) *MacKenzie and Karen from SAB*
- a) *SAB is mapping Erie pollinator gardens (public and private), goal to survey all Town gardens each year and report the data to determine actionable steps.*
  - b) *Erieco.us/eries-buzzing-gardens*
    - *Provides a link to Friends of Coal Creek certification process and other resources*
    - *SAB is identifying potential sites and conduct pollinator surveys*
    - *Will be looking for volunteers to help conduct pollinator surveys*
    - *Held a bee hotel workshop, very well attended with a wait list (will do it again in the Spring), fall workshop will be focused on “harvesting the bees” sometime in October. Will be held through the library*
    - *SAB is trying to determine what Town Staff is doing to help promote the pollinator efforts and bee habitats in Town parks. Will be reaching out to Horticulture and Forestry for more conversations.*
    - *Requesting budget support – habitat surveys are on average \$900/site/year to hire BP to survey and report data. If volunteers did the surveys instead of BP, volunteers would need to be trained and committed to conducting the survey in the correct way.*
    - *Could reach out to Green Thumb Facebook page to reach potential volunteers. Can add some information in the TAB Tree Talk newsletter.*
    - *Training takes about 2 hours. Need to look into if BP will come to us as a larger group interested in receiving training. Data collection can be easily handled by volunteers but will likely need to hire BP to analysis the data and provide actionable steps.*
    - *We can reach out to Eryka/Tom to see if there are grants we can pursue as a Town and Town staff can help with that effort.*
    - *Jason to reach out to OSTAB to see if they want to particiapte*

#### *B. Fruit Tree Rescue Update*

- 1) *Moving forward.*
- 2) *Next steps is for Town Council to approve some language for a Service Agreement. Potentially on the agenda on July 22<sup>nd</sup> or near after.*
- 3) *Pilot year: Current budget will cover up to 12 harvests of fruit trees (Fruit Stewards) for the fall 2025 season. (\$1,500) Each harvest has to be a minimum of 40 pounds of fruit to harvest.*
  - a) *Funding for this season is a “use it or lose it” but we can use those funds for other SAB/TAB at end of year if it’s not used.*
- 4) *Hoping to kick off advertising the program August 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- 5) *Goal is to have harvest leader and volunteers to be Erie based.*
- 6) *Training program for harvest leaders, all done through Community Fruit Rescue.*
- 7) *Community Fruit Rescue has been in operation and can take any fruit we need to but goal is to keep all fruit within Erie.*
  - a) *All fruit will need to be delivered immediately after harvest*
  - b) *Erie Food Bank is happy to be a recipient of any harvests*
  - c) *Talking to Active Adult group as potential recipient*
  - d) *Partnerships with animal sanctuaries and farms (for animal grade fruit)*
  - e) *Fruit Stewards, volunteers and harvest leaders are offered shared in the harvest*

- 8) *Use Green Thumb Facebook group to spread the word.*
- 9) *Create a flyer to leave at houses that have fruit trees*
  - a) *SAB is working with Town Staff to determine if they are using Community Fruit Rescue materials or create Erie branded materials.*
  - b) *Can include additional resources or alternative donation information if they don't have 40 lbs.*
- C. *Linear Park Update*
  - 1) *Tom recommended we reach out to other Boards and get their support*
  - 2) *Opportunities to create a pollinator garden in that park.*
  - 3) *Historic Preservation Advisory Board is coming to August meeting to discuss the potential to move the train depot there and their involvement.*
  - 4) *That area is used by students walking to school.*
- D. *2025 Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration*
  - 1) *Vendor feedback: Received feedback from 7 vendors. –*
    - a) *Making sure there are 2 chairs at each push, would like a table cloth*
    - b) *More day of communication about event timing*
    - c) *Label table #s.*
    - d) *Good communication*
    - e) *Lowest rating was 4.5 out of 5.*
- E. *Tree Talk Newsletter*
  - 1) *Next deadline for material is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> for Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> publishing.*
  - 2) *Potential topics:*
    - a) *Tom's recommended topics:*
      - *School program, fall color, iron chlorosis, winter mulching, leaf collection*
      - *Jason to recirculate the list to new Board Members*
    - b) *Promote Fruit Rescue for next year*
    - c) *Other ideas:*
      - *Columnar Tree Series*
    - d) *Finalize topics and champions next month*
- F. *2024-2025 School Outreach and Tree Growing Kits*
  - 1) *Jason to prepare the letter to sent to schools mid-August*
- G. *2025 Trees Walks*
  - 1) *September 5<sup>th</sup> – Old Town*
    - a) *Connecting with Josh Campbell to align the with Old Town walk*
    - b) *Let Nancy (Catalpa lady) know about the Old Town walk.*
  - 2) *October 3<sup>rd</sup> – cemetery*
- H. *Bi-Annual Report – September 9th*
  - 1) *Add Fruit Rescue and Pollinator District to report as pilot program/use of our funding*
  - 2) *We'll be 1<sup>st</sup> for the Board reports*
  - 3) *Leanne is happy to update the slides*
  - 4) *Claudia is happy to give presentation, Patty and Amy will attend*
- I. *Erie Air Fair- September 7th (Sunday) 10am-2pm*
  - 1) *Highly attended event*
  - 2) *TAB and SAB could have a joint booth*
    - a) *Request a booth location away from band*
    - b) *Need to confirm what we'll need to bring (display panel, tent).*
    - c) *Jason to reach out to other Boards to see if they want to participate and we can vote next month about our participation.*
    - d) *Discuss what flyers/materials we need*
    - e) *Jason to ask Tom if he has a tree that we can raffle off.*
  - 3) *Biscuit Day - September 20<sup>th</sup>*
    - a) *Most likely not worth participating but can decide in August*
- J. *Other business*

1) *None*

**7. Adjournment @ 8:29 pm**

A. *Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 13th at 6:30pm - In-person at Town Hall  
Community Room*

---

**Tree Advisory Board**