



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Meeting Minutes Tree Advisory Board

Wednesday, May 14, 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), excused
Leanne Vielehr (Secretary), present
Amy Demeyer, present
Patricia O'Donnell, present
Taylor Thomson, present
Nathan Ruane, excused (approved by Town Council last night)
- B. Erie Council Liaisons: Brian O'Connor and Emily Baer

3. Approval of the Agenda

- A. Amend Agenda to add Budget
- B. Approve amended agenda.
 - a) Motion: Leanne
 - b) Second: Patty

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- A. April 2025 Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) Motion: Patty
 - b) Second: Amy
- B. Jason to send approved minutes to Erie Town Clerk

5. Public Comments

- A. Public Comment:
 - 1) none

6. General Business

- A. 2025 Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration – After Action Review
 - 1) Tom thinks we had over 1,000 people making it the most attended event yet
 - 2) Claudia provided email with her thoughts
 - a) Idea for next year: Can we make posters out of the 5th grade poster contest winners? Fun idea
 - b) Vender communication, invite those who have attended previously first
 - 3) Ask Tom/Eryka if they didn't accept any exhibitor applications
 - 4) Congressman Neguse had a great time
 - 5) Need to add more speakers, can only hear if you are within a certain distance of speakers. Amy couldn't hear from Home Depot booth. Town will need to make that purchase or we will need to rent it. Mention to staff now so it can be included in the budget that Town Council will approved in the fall. Jason will mention to Tom.
 - 6) Taylor thought it was well attended and that the folks were engaged. Drawings well timed and helped people there.
 - 7) Drawing rules: we are not enforcing the Town of Erie residents, Board agreed that that's not as important. If in the future, we end up with more winners out of town we

- can revisit.
- 8) Food trucks: great to have a coffee vendor
 - 9) Other activities ideas: Sack races for kids, morning lawn yoga. Stump carver, tree climbing or tree planting. Basketball "Horse" game for a tree. Keep discussing and ask SAB.
 - 10) Need #s on the tables, that caused a lot of confusion with exhibits.
 - 11) Exhibitor layout seemed good. We could reach out to Town staff and ask if they liked being grouped with other Town departments, etc.
 - 12) Ask exhibitors in the application, if they will be bringing a tent and what size
 - 13) Go through supply box and find outdated posters that need to be updated, add that to the fall agenda to keep in this year's budget. Can look at if it makes sense to laminate or put in a reusable lightweight frame. Worked well to have Brian's display frames with tree posters on side to block drawing prizes and allow people to look at the posters.
 - 14) Stickers and coloring books were a big hit with kids and adults.
- B. Tree Talk Newsletter
- 1) All topics that were assigned last week are still good.
 - 2) Text due to staff by June 1st for mid-June publication.
 - 3) Brian and Leanne have pictures of bad tree straps if needed
- C. 2024-2025 School Outreach and Tree Growing Kits
- 1) We only had 3 schools participate this year. Ideas to get more engaged:
 - a) Email schools at beginning of the year in August so they can incorporate into their lesson planning
 - b) Spring break also is difficult to schedule because the seedlings need to be watered, etc. over spring break.
 - c) Include pictures of the kits
 - d) Should we expand it to 4th grades? This year was all 1st graders. Change wording to 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade instead of 1st thru 3rd grade.
 - e) Jason is going to ask the couple teachers for their feedback and input
- D. 2025 Trees Walks
- 1) Arapahoe Ridge – May 2nd
 - a) Well attended, 5 board members and 10 residents (and 1 dog)
 - 2) Next walk: Coal Creek Park – June 6th
 - 3) Jason to ask Tom if he has the dot poll and what the results were
 - 4) Jason to also ask if September 5th works (choice location from dot poll)
 - 5) October walk (either the 3rd or 10th) at cemetery
- E. Fruit Tree Rescue Update
- 1) Moving forward with it.
 - 2) Fruit Tree Rescue program is asking the Board for a place to store stuff (Eryka, thinks she has a place for them) and then they are asking for annual funding.
 - a) Asking for an annual amount of either \$500 or \$1000 (Jason to confirm amount). Funding will go to tools/supplies and small staff stipend for Team Lead. This would be the reason to ask for an increase in our annual TAB budget.
 - b) Would the Town be a partner? Need to work out where the compost goes.
 - c) It would start small and see how it goes. Want to collect 40lbs of fruit per visit. Can multiple neighbors be combined to meet 40lb minimum.
 - d) TAB would help spread the word
 - 3) Jason to confirm amount and we can discuss further.
- F. Pollinator District
- 1) SAB is spearheading this effort.
 - 2) Not asking for any funding from TAB at this time
- G. Linear Park Update
- 1) Tom suggested we provide a letter in support of adding trees and irrigation to Linear Park to the Mayor and Town Council. Tom will write letter and send Board a

- draft. Mike McGill said there were landscape plans done in the past.*
- 2) *The old train depot and out building could be relocated there as a museum. It's on HPAB's radar.*
 - 3) *Council has a study session coming up to discuss other parks, maybe this park will be part of the conversation.*
- H. *Budget*
- 1) *Deadline is June 1st*
 - 2) *Currently \$3,000 budget.*
 - a) *We typically spend about \$2,000 on Arbor Day (\$1,000 for prizes and \$1,000 table/chair rental)*
 - b) *Then spend remaining on TAB clothing, seed planting kits, misc. printing.*
 - 3) *Ask \$1,000 for Fruit Rescue*
 - 4) *Do we need more budget to keep growing Arbor Day event? Do we want more \$ for drawing prizes? Chainsaw artist could be a prize. Ask for another \$1,000 for Arbor Day*
 - 5) *Ask Tom for addition \$2,000 to bring our total budget to \$5,000.*
- I. *Other business*
- 1) *None*

7. Adjournment @ 8:11 pm

- A. *Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 6:30pm - In-person at Town Hall Community Room*