



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Meeting Minutes

Tree Board

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

7:00 PM

Community Room

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:05pm

ROLL CALL Brian O'Connor, Present
Tom Swihart, Present
Kim Tuck, Present
Rachel Folger, Present
Arthur Henderlong, Present
Sharon Clark, Present
Leanne Vielehr, Present

PUBLIC COMMENT AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS n/a

APPROVE May 2018 MEETING MINUTES
Moved to approve minutes with changes: Art
Second: Tom
Approved: unanimous

GENERAL BUSINESS

2018 & 2019 Event Planning

Farmer's Market - last Thursday Farmer's Market date in September - \$30 to sign up. Rachel will forward the sign up information. September 20th. Mike McGill can give us tree seeds. Advertise the fall events. Rachel, Sharon, and Leanne can be there. Brian will try to be there. 5pm-8pm. Mike can have the panels, tables, etc available for pickup at Leon A Whirl center. Just let him know what is needed. Reach out to Sandy French (P&R admin) for budget to pay for fee. Advertise both tree talks (posters will be ready) and leaf composting. Give Mike a week ahead of time reminder so he'll have everything ready.

Collab with other boards.

Sustainability - interested with co-sponsoring leaf composting. Has not responded to co-sponsoring Earth/Arbor day yet.

Historic Preservation - talked in the past but no definitive plans.
We have our own budget now to make it easier to purchase things. Budgets are proposed, but not confirmed as of now. Funnel questions through Sandy.

Possibility for donation of money for Scouts who help us with stuff like leaf composting events? Recommend we come up with a number and discuss it with

Mike and Sandy. Planning, numbers, and figures always help.

Tree talks - two dates set - same format as last year.

At rec center. @ 6:30pm

Posters/flyers being developed now - Katie Hansen working on them.

Sept 25th - tree pruning - hoping to prune a tree on site (live demo) - evergreens, ornamentals, and shade trees. 6:52pm is sunset.

Oct 16th - Winter prep and care of trees in your yard - watering, etc.

Need someone to introduce Mike.

Art will get light refreshments for attendees.

Can have display board up with pictures of what we do during the year.

Can also mention the leaf composting event.

Hopefully we can record it.

School outreach program - who else is interested in helping. Art is interested. Leanne is interested. Brian recommends a handout for the kids so they can take it home and know how to keep their tree alive and so their parents know about the program. Mike requests targeting a date that far before Arbor day because Arbor day timeframe is very hectic. First graders are better to work with for seed plantings than preschoolers. Planting trees is better for fifth graders. Smaller groups are better. 8 kids at each planting location is optimal because they can all help and not just watch. Send out interest requests to teacher contacts sooner. Recommend reaching out to teachers in January. Recommend doing seedlings much earlier so they have time to grow before Spring. Recommend tree plantings a week or two before arbor day or even after arbor day (preferred). Mike is flexible, and wants to see what works for the teachers, just know that arbor day timeframe is hectic.

Discussion with Town Arborist

CTC tree program - how to get going for next year. Trees Across Colorado - Presentation passed around. Program to provide affordable, trees grown for this area in air pots. HOAs, scouts, whomever can participate. A way we can provide affordable trees to citizens. coloradotrees.org > programs for info. FAQ. Entered into contract with supertrees out of Oregon to grow the trees. 7 gallon trees light medium - so easier to transport. Higher quality and more affordable than nurseries because they buy in bulk. Some places buy these and have a tree sale. Raffle and/or also sell the trees. Some people do direct orders - pay us, then pick up on specific day. Some are event-based. Some buy a bunch of trees and sell them piecemeal. They give info on how to plant and care for the tree as well. In the past, the tree board did it one year, then there was a lot of turnover, with two members left, so didn't continue the program. If we do want to do this, Mike can refer us to some other tree boards that have done this for guidance and advice. Program is set up to be done easily by volunteers. Could be done by town staff as well. For our staff - one or two pickup days is more feasible than people pickup whenever. If we did this - what would the turn around time be? Could order a variety of trees that the town could use if we don't sell them. Mike could then deal with the diversity issue by ordering things that are of use to the town. Order needs to be in by Mid-December. Could pre-order 10 trees of 10 species - ribbon off the for-sale trees at arbor day. Will still need to determine how to accept money for them, etc. This is a big topic, so we should discuss in more detail at a future meeting. Gertie Grant runs it and can tell us what we need to know.

Other tree incentive programs - our incentive program is tied to tree impact fund - which is tied to permit fees (more houses, more funds). This is law, can only be used to buy trees. Use it or lose it, only there for some years, so town brainstormed how to use the money for the public and enhance community forestry.

We have several cost share programs - growing pains involve running out of space to plant.

- New home tree certificate to buy a tree. Administered by building dept.
- HOA cost-share program. Expanded into school/non-profit cost-share program. First come first serve. Some HOAs use it every year. Administered by Parks and Rec dept.
- Lottery - 2x a year to get tree certificate. Issue is people get them then don't redeem them. So we open it again for fall planting for the remainders. Very popular. Often have waiting lists.

We CAN do other incentive programs. Give ideas. Good time to discuss now because it's budget planning time. Schools and nonprofits are notified via letter. Schools typically don't have time to explore the option. Town plants, irrigates, inspects. Note this is funded by new permits, so caution that money incoming may slow down via this avenue in the future as new permits slow. All of this is done with staff time. We have one of the more generous incentive programs. We had a memorial tree program, but discontinued it in favor of a memorial bench program. But we could still have a memorial tree program in the future. Advise not letting people pick which tree and which area. For Bench - varying levels of bench quality/price. Can put plaque on bench but difficult to do that with a tree. Boulder's memorial tree program doesn't let you put a plaque on the tree.

Tom and Art considering questionnaire or ranking about our priorities.

Erie Tree Code - what is required of new communities in terms of trees? Also dog park. Flood plains? What are the restrictions. Unified Development Code - currently updating standards and specs - sometimes there are contradictions so need to reconcile. Town doesn't want to tell people what to plant on private property - only concerned with it being a major nuisance or safety issue.

Town's approach to public property tree policy. Diversity is important to Mike. Also concerns about climate issues/invasiveness/etc. Recommendations change every year depending on changing trends (insects, etc). Promote drought tolerant, insect/disease resistant. Look for these things when specing out parks. Diversity and right tree in the right place. Public property is held to the same code as private property. Look at the Erie Municipal Code for what the Tree Board duties are.

Question from arbor day visitor about being able to plant trees around parks, lakes, etc. What is our mission, just educate people, encourage plantings around specific places? Individuals cannot plant trees themselves in parks, against town code. If someone wants to do larger plantings at work days. Examples, Saturday work day to plant 30 tree or diversity seedlings at coal creek open space. Help out a school that had no trees because they have no budget. Try to avoid planting large trees without irrigation because they'll die. More feasible with seedlings because even if many die, several will take. There are places this may work. Places that aren't beat down by the sun.

Trees in the ground has been the primary tree board goal. Note the dynamic depends on the membership.

Election of Board Positions

- **Chair -**
 - **Nominations: Brian**

- **Vice-Chair -**
 - **Nominations: Art**

- **Secretary -**
 - **Nominations: Sharon**

Tom moves that those nominated get the positions.

Seconded: Leanne

Approved: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 8:18pm

Next Meeting

September 12, 2018, 7:00 pm

Community Room, Erie Town Hall