

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
April 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Bullock called the in-person/virtual meeting to order at 6:03 pm on April 20, 2023, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present:	Dan Bullock, Member Kari Bevevino, Member Jo Anne Teeple, Member Sky Quarto, Member
Town Staff Present:	Carl Meinecke, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison Kelley Amdur, Town of Carbondale Planner Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk
Guests:	Kamie Long, Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forester Linda Criswell, Carbondale Historical Society Angela Loughry, Confluence Architecture Michelle Oger, Director, Little Blue Preschool, Inc.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Sky ***moved*** to approve the March 16, 2023, meeting minutes. Kari ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dan introduced and welcomed Kamie Long, the Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forester, who was attending the meeting virtually.

55 N. 7TH STREET/LITTLE BLUE PRESCHOOL EXPANSION STREET TREE REVIEW

Dan noted that Carl had reviewed this project prior to the meeting and his recommendations are included in the meeting packet. He commented that he really appreciated having the opportunity to review this project during the initial process rather than as an afterthought.

Angela introduced Michelle Oger, Director of Little Blue Preschool, Inc., and shared her screen to describe the project:

- The project is located on North 7th Street across from Colorado Mountain College.
- The existing building contains three classrooms that serve 35 students.
- The proposed expansion will add room for two classrooms on the north side of the existing building and increase the area for the infant room on the south side.
- Pertinent to the Tree Board, they are proposing public improvements that will affect three mature elm trees; this plan is depicted on Sheet A0.1 included in the meeting packet:
 - Replace the existing sidewalk that has buckled from the tree roots with a five-foot wide sidewalk to enhance the pedestrian experience along 7th Street.
 - Convert the existing parallel parking to head-in parking. This element will require the removal of the three mature Siberian Elm trees that border the street in front of the building.
 - Add three 10-foot wide bulb-outs spaced approximately 35-feet apart.
 - An alternate plan depicted on Sheet A01.A leaves the mature trees in place for a less formal look. This plan would likely impact the trees with vehicles parking on

top of the root zone. One beneficial feature of leaving the mature trees in place is the shade they provide for the building and infant play area.

- Carl has conveyed his preference for the proposed plan that removes the mature Siberian Elms in favor of street trees from the approved list and the bulb-outs are spaced accordingly. A third small-stature tree is proposed closer to the building to provide visual interest and shade for the play area; the proposed location is tight on space, however.
- A final consideration is whether the bulb-outs and sidewalk should be flush to the ground or raised via curb and gutter.

Jo Anne asked about the timeline for the project, noting that they have requested vested rights for five years. She asked if the project will be phased.

Angela replied that they asked for the five-year vested rights to allow for unexpected complications in the planning, fundraising and/or construction phase. She added that they aren't planning to phase-in the project.

Dan asked if they will be replacing the sidewalk north of the property. He pointed out that there is a fourth mature Siberian Elm in front of 726 N. 7th Street that is also failing.

Angela replied that the current plan is to transition back to the three-foot width.

Dan suggested that the Town of Carbondale Public Works Department – not the applicants -- consider removing that fourth tree and replacing the remaining sidewalk with a five-foot width. He also stated that he would rather that only the two large stature trees be planted – it doesn't have to be a one-to-one replacement-- and not put in the small-stature tree. Dan advised that the Tree Board requires irrigation infrastructure for watering the trees until they are established and noted that along 3rd Street, Public Works installed irrigation access from the Town ditch. He observed that the bulb-outs along 3rd Street have also been helpful in protecting the trees.

Angela confirmed that they do have irrigation infrastructure that can be used to water the trees.

Carl explained that the initial plan proposed a third tree at the corner, but given the traffic and overhead powerlines, it was unlikely to thrive, and the applicants propose to install public art in that location instead. He suggested that only one flowerpot instead of two is needed.

Angela pointed out that the flowerpot will be easy to maintain, and the kids will be able to help maintain it.

Jo Anne stated that she was in favor of removing the trees, but asked if they had given any thought to how they might help protect the trees on private property to the north of the preschool. She added that a stipulation be included to ensure that the tree stumps are ground out to prevent regrowth of suckers. She suggested that the bulb-out that separates the ADA parking space from the other head-in parking spaces be reversed to protect the tree from open doors and high-profile vehicles. She asked how the kids would enter the building.

Angela replied that they only enter through the front door.

Jo Anne suggested that in consideration of the emphasis of reducing water consumption, they alter their landscape plans in favor of ground cover.

Dan supported the project and complimented them on their plans. He stated that he would rather see a streetscape like that on 3rd Street rather than the raised curb-and-gutter found along Colorado. He thought it better reflected Carbondale's character.

Sky voiced her concern about the maintenance of the bulb-outs.

Carl replied that the Parks Department has had good luck with turf in managing noxious weeds. Kelley pointed out that the code requirements for new development in the Historic Commercial Core require raised curb-and-gutter, while those in the Old Town Residential zone district do not. She noted that there is an opportunity for the applicants to pursue relief in the form of a Finding of Alternative Compliance.

ARBOR DAY AND DANDELION DAY PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

Dan reminded the board members that the Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 AM at the Thompson House. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Director supported the tree planting, and is leaving the location up to Carl, but asked that the lawn area be left open to allow for special events. Dan listed other pertinent items for the event:

- Meet at 9:00 AM to set up the tent
- Margaret Mather designed the poster, and he will print copies for distribution
- Refreshments: Sky will make cookies; Jo Anne will check with Bonfire for coffee and Dan will bring juice. Dan reminded everyone to save their receipts for reimbursement from the Tree Board budget.
- Carl will check with Kevin regarding a tree giveaway of the small pine trees that have been in the downtown pots over the winter.

Carl informed the board members that he has a small-caliper Catalpa and a Red Oak ready to plant. He still needs to figure out where the irrigation is and committed to having the holes dug prior to the event.

Linda thought they might be able to open the museum for the event.

Jo Anne suggested Marty announce the event on KDNK on Friday, May 5th. She also suggested adding it to the events page in the Sopris Sun.

Dan thought it would be useful to include a demonstration on why it is important to remove and replace Siberian Elms.

Kamie explained that she will be there and is willing to lead a pruning how-to.

Kari suggested posting the event on the Town's Facebook account.

Kae informed the group that since there isn't a Public Information Officer, Kevin or Carl will need to submit the information to the Town Manager to get it posted on the Town's website or Facebook account.

Jo Anne asked about the proclamation.

Dan committed to working with Carl to get the mayor to sign the proclamation. He also noted that there will be a similar setup for Dandelion Days the following weekend.

TOWN OF CARBONDALE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS UNIFORMITY DISCUSSION

Dan commented that he wasn't sure what needed to be discussed because he thought the Tree Board was working well.

Kae clarified the intent of the Town Manager and Board of Trustees, pointing out that it was a way to streamline the administrative process, advertise and encourage more volunteer participation and provide opportunities for leadership training.

Dan expressed his desire to have prospective members interviewed by the Tree Board and then appointed by the Board of Trustees.

CARL'S TREE REPORT

Carl listed activities he has been working on including:

- Completed holiday lighting removal; Ali (the landscape technician) did 75% of the work.
- Complete Tree Work:
 - o Recreation path behind the Orchard Church – two damaged Siberian Elms
 - o 1968 CO-133 powerline conflict Siberian Elm to remove
 - o Pruned trees off the Dinkel building to give workers more space

Upcoming Tree Work:

- Pruning and cleanup of trees and vegetation at Gateway RV Park
- We-cycle locations
 - o Considering contracting a tree spade to move tree that will be impacted by the bike station off the roundabout in front of Sopris Liquor.
 - o Two trees close to the bike station at North Face Park will be impacted but believe they will survive the root zone disturbance.
 - o Two larger bushes will need to be removed on the SW corner of Main & 7th (near the pool)
 - Would like to capitalize on the disturbance and revitalize the bed in that location

Adopt-A-Flowerbed interest:

- Working together with Bee Friendly Group to formulate a plan for the middle bridge flower beds at Sopris Park

Tree Planting:

- Working to finalize tree planting sites and desired species
- He has purchased eight trees to date utilizing a donation of \$1500.00 raised by Niki Delson of the Down Valley Jewish Families and Friends earmarked for the purchase of trees to be planted in celebration of the Jewish holiday commemorating the birth of trees.

Trees in Grates:

- Beginning an analysis of trees in grates
 - o To date, 70 trees in grates have been counted;
 - o Kamie suggested Carl reach out to other local communities to see if they have found any solutions.

Outreach/Education:

- Completed training as required for limited commercial and public pesticide applicators
- Attended virtually the Intermountain Urban Forestry Council meeting
- There will be a demonstration on the use of natural methods to eliminate Canada Thistle at the Nature Park on May 12th. Carl will disseminate pertinent information to interested parties.

ADJOURNMENT

The April 20, 2023, regular meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald
Town of Carbondale Boards and Commissions Clerk