



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

November 8, 2019

Park Operations

2529 High Country Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, Kamie Long at 8:51 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kamie Long
Mollie Higginbotham
Susan Carter
Paul Morency
Tom Ziola

Absent Board Members: Vince Urbina

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Parks and Recreation Director
Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor

Item 2: Approved Minutes for October, Kamie made motion to accept, Paul accepted, Mollie 2nd.

Item 3: Thank you to Kamie Long for her 12 years of service.

Item 4: Forestry Updates

Tree City USA

- The Tree City USA application is due at the end of November. To achieve Tree City USA status, the city must: maintain a forestry board, have a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day. Rob encourages the board to start thinking of dates and brainstorming ideas for

Arbor Day in 2020. Possibility of holding Arbor Day event at the botanical gardens. Ken approved idea for the botanical gardens and involvement of the forestry board.

Colorado Tree Coalition and Excel Energy Grants

- The Colorado Tree Coalition is putting out the tree grant application this November. The maximum grant amount is \$1,500. The Xcel Energy Vegetation Management Grant application also goes out this November. The maximum grant amount is \$3,000. Both are possible revenue for the 2020 budget.

ISA Certified Arborist Training

- Susan presented round one of the ISA training. Rob, Kamie and Brian are presenting round two of the training. Kamie will present tree installation, Rob has soils, Brian has safety. A sign in sheet will be brought to round two of the training to keep track of the attendees. The ISA test was pushed back to January 15th. Susan and Rob recommended going through the material, and then asking questions similar to what will be on the test. Vince is picking up 12 copies of the ISA study guide. These will be available for purchase.

2020 license renewals

- The Forestry Advisory Board approves setting up a license renewal meeting for all contractors. Susan suggested sending an informational email out to contractors who do not have a license. E-lizard landscaping did not get signed up as a contractor. They were seen in the newspaper advertising their services and are actively pruning trees outside of city limits. Grand Valley Tree Services is now licensed. They have until the next year to pass the ISA Certified Arborist test.

Establishing Rules and Regulations for Licensed Contractors

- Rob presented an example of rules and regulations for licensed contractors from the city of Denver, CO code. A contractor working on a right-of-way tree should have the same expectations and regulations as the city does. Currently, these rules and regulations are not laid out clearly, and there's no way to ensure if maintenance is kept up with and planting is done correctly. The Planning Department will be reviewing the landscape code soon. Ken agreed that now is a good time to contact the Planning Department to make these changes. Lance, from the planning department, is putting together a committee to redesign the document.

Winter 2019/2020 Removals

- The Forestry Crew will move on to removals once Christmas lights are completed. There is a high concern for Ash trees affected by the emerald ash borer. Ash trees make up the highest percentage of street trees. Native bark beetle and lilac ash borer infestations are increasing prevalent leading to significant decline in tree health.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

- Rob inquired about long term goals for Grand Junction's urban forest. Detailed information about forestry will be added to the master plan. How much the trees are worth, how much cooling they provide, how they assist in the reduction in air pollution, etc.

Tree Inventory and Grand Junction GIS Team

- The City Surveyor will work with the GIS intern to add missing trees into the database. Once the intern adds tree points, the Forestry Crew can easily add information to the points out in the field.

Item 5: New Business

- The application deadline to be a member of the Forestry Board was October 25th, 2019. The Forestry Advisory Board agrees that the application should be reopened.

Item 6: Adjourn

Kamie Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 AM. Meeting adjourned.

The next Forestry Advisory Board meeting will be held on December 5th, 2019 at 8:30 AM at the Parks Operations Building.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Emily Tighe