



*Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes*

October 11, 2019

Park Operations

2529 High Country Court, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Item 1: Meeting called to order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, Kamie Long at 8:32 AM.

Board Members Present: Kamie Long
Mollie Higginbotham
Paul Morency
Tom Ziola
Vince Urbina

Absent Board Members: Susan Carter
Justin Drissel

Additional Present:

Parks & Recreation Staff: Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program

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

Item 3: Memorial Tree Program

- Moving away from granite stone. Headed in the direction of no marker at all near the tree. Possibility of providing a wooden plaque to purchaser of memorial tree. Plaque will display the coordinates of the tree and allow for an inscription. Randy Coleman's brother

developed a plaque. Exploring the possibility of adding a GIS layer to a tree inventory that will display the location of memorial trees. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board supports the change to the memorial tree program. Markers will be allowed at the cemetery's memorial forest. Memorial benches and shelters are still available for purchase. Adjustments to the program will be made as necessary.

Riverside Park Honeylocust

- The tree is in good condition. Parking area will encroach on tree. Rob Davis recommends removing one parking space to help protect tree. Rob estimated the value of the tree at \$32K. Resistance has been encountered when proposing changes to the park project in order to protect trees. Forestry Board will support requests to adjust construction plans in an effort to protect trees.

Licensed Contractors

- Grand Valley Tree Services was asked to cease and desist by an officer with the Grand Junction Police Department while at a jobsite. An employee of Grand Valley Tree, Nathan, took the test and paid fees. Grand Valley Tree is now licensed to work in the city. Received complaints that Terrell Tree Service was operating in the city and is unlicensed. An employee of Terrell Tree Service contacted the City Forester's office with regard to suspect business practices.

Western Colorado Community College

- A landscape company trimmed an ash tree on campus. The tree was poorly trimmed. A request will be made to remove trees, grind the stumps, and then plant new trees in the right-of-way. Caldwell Banker manages the campus property.

ISA Training

- The hospitality suite in the Tower at Lincoln Park has been reserved every Tuesday in November. Three classes, two hours in length, are usually held. In the past, focus was given on areas where challenges were identified. Classes usually began at 2 PM and concluded at 4 PM. The test is usually given during the fourth class. In 2019, it might be a good idea to schedule the test during the month of December as Thanksgiving is on November 28th. An email to contractors with information about the training might be ideal. One proctor and a "second" person will be required for the test. Kamie will get test setup and will need the test location for four hours (1 PM to 5 PM). Rob will work on scheduling room to host testing and will email the majority of contractors with testing information. Rob's email will discuss date of the test, areas (topics) to be discussed, and process for submitting a request to become a licensed arborist. Vince will identify topics to discuss during classes.

Grand Valley Canopy Website

- Currently finishing tree care page. Contributors will regroup once Kamie's annual meeting has taken place.

ArborFest 2020

- The Forestry Board has played a key role in the event planning previously. Previously, school visits were conducted and posters were created. Tree seedlings had been given away. Individuals began selling the seedlings, thus the decision was made to no longer distribute them.

Item 4: Forestry Update

- City Crews are working on tree pruning and will begin Christmas light installs soon. Crews are also touring neighborhoods locating dead trees. Around 90 dead trees have been located thus far.
- Vince stated Teddy would like to conduct another aerial rescue training. Rob would like to move forward.
- Vince requested feedback regarding an approach the City of Gunnison is taking with regard to tree care. The City of Gunnison has multiple large cottonwood trees that are old and decaying in the city right-of-way. The new Streets Director would like to move responsibility for the trees to adjacent homeowners. The State Forest Service is in search of examples approaches other cities are taking. Previously, the City of Gunnison handled tree removal.
- Emerald Ash Borer was found in Larimer County. The Colorado Department of Agriculture would like to release their responsibility. Restrictions on the hauling of firewood from certain areas to be removed.

Item 5: New Business

- Kamie's term on the Board will expire in November. The Board requirements mandate the backgrounds from which members shall be comprised of.
- Discussion of giving the Board added purpose. Ken feels the Board is a regulatory entity. Suggestion made that the Board may be able to be involved in the review of landscape design requirements.
- Tom appreciates the support of the City, Vince, and Kammy with the Saluting Branches event.
- Los Colonias trees have been planted and are still under warranty.
- The Google Smart Cities grant was not awarded to Grand Junction.

Item 6: Adjourn

Kamie Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 am. Meeting adjourned.

The next Forestry Board meeting will be held on November 8, 2019 at 8:30 am at Parks Operations Building.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jason Martinez