



*Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board  
Minutes*

*September 12, 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 9:45 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 July (quorum not reached in Aug) Kamie made motion to accept, Paul accepted, Tom 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Item 3: Parks & Recreation Leadership**

- Traci Wieland has vacated the position of Deputy Director.
- Ken Sherbenou has assumed the role of Director of Parks & Recreation.

#### **Item 4: Forestry Update**

- Vince provided a recap of the WCCFC. 85 people attended the event. Five continuing education credits were given. Rob contacted tree companies prior to the conference and advised them attendance would meet the yearly CEU requirement. The venue and speakers were well received.
- A third arboretum is now open to the public. Signage at the arboretum will likely be added. The location's Station Manager would like to see the area more utilized. The location is one of three that tests trees.
- Aerial Rescue Training – Appreciation for Vince for coordinating. Might be enough interest to fill another class. Vince will speak to Nick about seeing when another class can be scheduled.
- Smart Cities Grant – Ken Sherbenou made Rob aware of a Google grant opportunity for technology used by cities. A drone canopy assessment was suggested; the Smart Cities Grant Board liked the suggestion. There is a ten-day turnaround timeframe for grant consideration. The thought is a tree inventory and street tree mapping might be accomplished. Smart Cities (Google) is in search of innovative technological applications that would affect a number of people. Rob may consult with the Forestry Board as the process moves along.
- Memorial Tree Program – Ken Sherbenou is suggesting changes be made to the program. Feedback from Ken suggests the stone markers give the area a cemetery feel. Various cities located along the Front Range have similar programs and do not use stone markers. The City of Windsor dedicated a grove of trees near City Hall for designation as memorial trees. The cemetery does have a memorial forest.
- Canyon View Park – The Rotary Club communicated to city administration that the trees looked stressed. Rob toured the area with members of the Rotary Club. Weeds in the area were removed. Three trees were borderline. All trees were alive to the tip. The time of year at which the plantings took place and the heat have contributed to leaf scorch. Weeds growing in the area may have given the impression the area was being neglected.
- Emerald Ash Bore was located in Westminster, Colorado. An EAB public advisory was developed by Kamie and Susan.
- Saluting Branches will take place on September 18, 2019. The planting and pruning of trees will take place. There is a need for ladders and pole saws. This year's event will be the second one to take place in Grand Junction. The event start time is 7:30 AM.
- Los Colonias plantings have begun. There are concerns about irrigation and soil. There are a lot of maintenance needs. Sponsorship of the park may be an item to be considered.
- There are currently 127 open forestry work orders. In addition, there are 50 trees slated for planting. A SuperTrees order was placed this year and is scheduled for delivery in March of 2020.

#### **Item 5: New Business**

- ISA Certified Arborists tests need to be scheduled. The City of Grand Junction has prepaid for online classes. Arborists will need to visit the Parks Office to participate in classes. Rob Davis suggested scheduling a mandatory meeting for arborists to discuss things they need to know for license renewal. Scheduling the meeting during the month of January might be ideal.

**Item 6: Adjourn**

Kamie Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 am. Meeting adjourned.

The next Forestry Board meeting will be held on October 11, 2019 at 8:30 am at Parks Operations Building.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jason Martinez