



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*July 2, 2020
held in Hawthorne Park*

Item 1: Meeting came to Order by Mollie Higgenbotham, at 8:38 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Kamie Long
- Vince Urbina
- Susan Carter
- Mollie Higginbotham
- Paul Morency
- Bennett Boeschstein
- Tom Ziola

Absent Board Members:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, City & Open Space Supervisor
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Item 2: Approve Minutes for June Forestry Advisory Board Meeting

Tom Ziola was listed as absent, but was present.

Paul Morency made a motion to approve the minute.

The motion was seconded by Bennett Boeschstein and approved unanimously.

Item 3: Forestry Updates

As a point of information, Allison Little will be filling the Parks Admin Role for the rest of the year, and likely into 2021

a) Windstorms are causing lots of dropped branches and work requests are on the rise.

January – June Work Request History:

- 2020 – 263 work requests
- 2019 – 192 work requests
- 2018 – 202 work requests
- 2017 – 200 work requests
- 2016 – 184 work requests

- 2020 is 33% above 4 year average for same period. (There has also been a 33% reduction in staff)
 - Windstorm damage makes it challenging to get to regular trimming.
 - Staff is working on work orders from July of 2019 with about 150 in the system and more added every day.
- b) Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Meetings
- Held in Barn, Forestry Board is invited to a Focus Group and Stakeholder meetings. There are also a couple of public forums if folks are interested.
- c) Tree Inventory Work
- Colorado Mesa Student, Kylie Barber
 - Already inventoried 800 trees in 2 weeks
 - She has cleaned up the inventory at the Orchard Mesa Cemetery, and is beginning to look at right of way trees
 - Staff is focusing on maintaining only true ROW trees, regardless of history.
 - Kylie will be meeting with Kamie Long as well, to help give her a well-rounded internship experience.
- d) ISA Testing Update
- There are test dates scheduled for 9/9/20, 10/21/20, and 12/2/20.
 - Maximum of 8 test-takers per date.
 - Rob will send a reminder to City licensed forestry companies without an ISA arborist.
 - Bennet suggested reaching out to Fruita and Palisade as well.
 - Kamie will reach out to Fruita and work on a contact for Palisade.
- e) Park Vandalism
- Vandalism of trees at Canyon View and Westlake Park. (Branches pulled off, and also damaged with a hatchet.)
 - Education is needed to help folks understand replacing a tree is not like replacing a window. A one year old tree is not the same as the mature tree that was damaged.
 - Normally Arbor Day is a great way to remind kids of the value of trees.
 - Board members are interested in interacting with the kids in the Parks and Recreation summer camps and helping with education.
 - Mollie noted that Shirley might also have a connection to a different camp.
 - Susan has a connection with 4H kids and can push education that way also.
 - Kamie advised the board of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife OWL program which is for 6th grade kids. There are different kids each week. The board could create the curriculum and the OWL staff would present it. CSU STEM might be able to help create curriculum as well.
 - Tree “price tags” are a great way to raise understanding and awareness.
- f) General Discussion
- Pests and Disease
 - i. There is an osage orange with significant scale near the Amphitheater
 - ii. Elm Leaf Miner seems to be very prevalent this year
 - Grand and 1st Street Construction
 - i. CDOT replacement is 1:1, but there will be loss of mature trees

- Las Colonias
 - i. River Recreation Area - trees seem to be doing well
 - ii. Noxious weeds are also coming in; pepperweed and tamarisk – RiversEdge West desires to be more active in this area.
 - iii. Bluegrass dog areas is progressing, Dogtuff area needs longer to establish
- Tree Stories
 - i. Tom Ziola updated the group on the Tree Story project. He has reached out to folks with unique or important histories. Conversations continue.
- Treated Trees in Hawthorne
 - i. The City Plant Health Care Specialist treated a number of trees in Hawthorne Park.
 - ii. An injection machine doses the trees based on size and number of holes.
 - iii. Takes about 20 minutes per tree.

Item 4: New Business

a) Updating tree inventory

- The website will fit in the Forestry budget.
- Kamie will set up a Zoom call with the Grand Valley Committee to update the recommended tree list.

Item 5: Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 6: Adjourn: The meeting adjourned to the tree tour by acclimation at 9:34 a.m.

Item 7. Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, August 5, 2020 at 8:30am at **Park Operations (2529 High Country Court)** – we'll meet outside.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little