



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

June 4, 2020

held Via Zoom Meeting

Item 1: Meeting came to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, at 8:33 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Absent Board Members:

Guests Present: Tony – CSU Extension Intern

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

Item 2: Approve Minutes for May Forestry Advisory Board Meeting with following changes

Susan Carter is listed twice, remove one.

Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes with the change.

The motion was seconded by Paul and approved unanimously.

Item 3: Forestry Updates

h) Due to a previous engagement Vince updated the board about ISA testing dates and COVID Impacts.

- Test scheduled for July 1, 2020
- Students will wear masks
- Spacing is already required between test-takers

- Scheduled at the B.5 road facility
- The only unknown is if that facility will be re-opened on July 1.

Item 2: Approve Minutes from March meeting

- Kamie Long made a motion to approve minutes, with the spelling of Kamie Long's name corrected (add e throughout). The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously.

Item 3: Forestry Updates

- Mayor Duke Wortmann is the new Liaison to the Forestry Board, Chuck McDaniel is the alternate.
- Major Wind Damage
 - Lost a large tree at the Cemetery
 - A number of downed trees blocking sidewalks
- 239 calls this year, and a steady increase
 - Steady increase from month to month
 - Increased admin support is helping address the increased call load
- Tree Planting
 - Between 70 and 80 were planted in parks, the rest were street trees.
- Plant Health Care Update
 - Ash Treatments
 - The ash trees are in rough shape from native bore beetles
 - The Plant Health Care Specialist has done 138 systemic bark treatments.
 - Rainbow Tree Care demonstrated the new injection system. Injections are labeled for a two year treatment, though they don't have a good way to measure effectiveness.
 - The Extension has seen an increase of dead tree calls potentially due to the dry winter/spring and the hard freeze in April.
 - Green Ash trees seem to be hit harder than the White Ash Trees.
 - Elm Scale
 - The Plant Health Care Specialist has been treating Elm Trees
 - Seems to be affecting American Elms
 - Vince Urbina noted that the cultivar piece seems to be getting lost in the inventory. He would be willing to devote some time to identifying cultivars with resistance to scale
 - Siberian Elm Leaf Miner
 - Mostly aesthetic, very prevalent in Montrose and beginning to show up here
 - Wasp Gall
 - Can lead to die back of upper limbs
 - Honeylocust Plant Bug – active now

- Cambistat and new tree plantings
 - i. Treating new tree plantings with cambistat to slow upper growth and encourage root growth
 - ii. It is a soil drench which has been mixed in a 5 gallon bucket to ensure proper application ratio
 - Additional Pressures
 - i. 30% Budget reduction (including utilities)
 - ii. Parks division is down 7 Full Time positions (2 in irrigation alone)
 - iii. Compounding the problem is less water, and less eyes on the system as a whole.
 - iv. Lack of water is a threat to overall tree health in the City.
- f) Quarterly Report
- 896 trees maintained
 - 60 trees trimmed
 - 138 trees planted
 - 148 trees removed
 - 550-trees treated, though our staff member hasn't gotten everything into the software and estimates the number to be closer to 750
 - 150 backed up work orders, the oldest is from July of 2019
 - Higher priority jobs come in which prevent us from tackling older less urgent requests
 - Forestry Division is also down with a FT on paternity leave.
 - June 15th will have in intern starting to do work on the tree inventory
 - i. If anyone on the board would like to spend time on tree identification or showing other jobs in the industry it could really enrich the internship opportunity.
- g) Business Sign and Tree Conflicts
- There will be a time when trees and signage are in conflict, but the goal is to give the trees a chance to grow above the signs and provide long term aesthetic and shade.
 - Additionally staff have worked to be precise, maintaining only trees in the City right of way, regardless of any past maintenance.
 - i. One particular situation, after talking with legal refused to prune a tree that had been previously maintained. The property owner indicated they would be getting their lawyer involved.
- h) DRIP social media clip
- Highlighting balancing the advantages of having trees while using water responsibly.
 - Future projects include a video about weeds,

Item 4: New Business

- a) Updating recommended tree list
- Grand Valley Canopy will do first draft and forward to the board or the second draft.
 - Moving away from breaking down by water usage though still planning to include that information.

b) Update on ISA Test

- The test is July 1, the deadline for the application is June 15.
 - i. Only 8 test takers will be allowed.
 - ii. Kamie Long and Vince Urbina will proctor the test.
 - iii. There will be another test in the fall

c) Tree Stories

- The idea is to create a living history around significant trees, or trees with fun stories.
- Put them on the City Website and the Grand Valley Canopy Website
- Promote at Southwest Arbor Fest (perhaps follow up on seedlings that have been gotten at previous Arbor Fest events).
- Having the story about the tree adds additional value to the tree.
- Use Colorado Tree View or Tree Collections to add points of info
- Tom Ziola will begin collecting tree stories.

d) Virtual Chainsaw Training for Women

- Send out this opportunity with the ISA test reminder to help make people aware.

Item 5: Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 6: Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:00 a.m.

Item 7. Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 8:30am at **Hawthorne Park**

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little