



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*September 3, 2020*

*held at CSU Extension Office – Mesa County Fairgrounds*

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:40 AM.

### Roll Call

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

Absent Board Members: Bennett Boeschstein

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

### Approve Minutes for August 3 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting

There were two changes to the August minutes. Under Item 3 letter c, Zelkova was misspelled. Under Item 4 letter a, the donations were received for the Ute Garden. Paul Morency made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kamie Long and approved unanimously.

### Forestry Updates

- a) Outstanding 2019 pruning orders have been completed. Staff is working on pruning requests from the end of April 2020.
- b) Winter Removals – half of the core of downtown has been surveyed. 98 trees need to be removed (and about half of them are stone dead). The Forestry intern is helping with the process; taking pictures and uploading into the inventory so that if there is question later staff can use the pictures to illustrate the reasons for removal. Additionally, the pictures will help illustrate the stewardship of the landscape in general. We plan to use the removal list in Lucity to also send a preemptive mailing before the removals begin.

The board had a long discussion about raising awareness around the need to water trees and fighting the misconception that their roots tap into groundwater. Ideas for education included using the marquee, social media campaign, press release, getting a unified message to the nurseries, landscapers and for use by the City and Extension office. Also, creating a flyer for neighborhoods where the stress is most notable might be an effective route.

- c) Fall Tree Planting – The Forestry Division has CDBG funds for Westlake, insurance money from a car accident that took out a tree at Desert Vista, engineering mitigation funding and trees from the aquaponics beds. Planned plantings include Ridges Boulevard, Crown Point Cemetery, a variety of street trees, and Westlake Park.
- d) Grand Junction Rotary would like to do a planting at Las Colonias similar to the planting they did at Canyon View Park. Staff are considering reworking the bank area which could create some good planting spaces. So many people utilized the River Park this spring that the native areas were never able to get established.
- e) Rob presented to Community Development about the importance of green infrastructure and has been asked to make a similar presentation to the Planning Commission.
- f) Fire Station 3 is being rebuilt in its current parking lot area. Once the new building is complete the old station will be torn down and parking will be created in its place. Rob is working with engineering to preserve trees and set some standards about offsets and diversity schedules for new landscaping.
- g) Rob was approached by a Junior at Fruita Monument High School regarding the Kindness is Contagious project. Randy Coleman suggested something around the Wishing Tree in the center of the Rose Garden at Lincoln Park.

#### New Business

- a) ISA Testing – The September test was cancelled due to lack of registrations (there were 2). Vince will reach out and ask them to reduce the minimum number of test takers required to run a test.
- b) Susan worked with DRIP to create a video with some tree tips. The video is available on the DRIP website and social media.
- c) The Grand Valley Canopy group is meeting today to continue working on updating the list for the website.
- d) Tom Ziola updated the board on the Heritage Tree Program. He and Kamie interviewed the children of a woman who planted what is now a 28” Bur Oak tree between 1955 and 1960. The acorn came from a tree that is out on 33 Road.

Item 5: Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 6: Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 9:59 a.m.

Item 7. Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8:30am at the Las Colonias Amphitheater

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little  
Administrative Specialist