



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*December 3, 2020
held Virtually*

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:39 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bennett Boeschstein
Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham
Kamie Long
Paul Morency
Vince Urbina

Absent Board Members: Tom Ziola

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

Approve Minutes for November 5 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting. Mollie Higginbotham was listed as both present and absent in Roll Call.

Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment removing Mollie's name from present. The motion was seconded by Bennett Boeschstein and approved unanimously.

Forestry Updates

- a) Open Space Trail System Development
 - Staff are creating a 2 mile trail around the open space area near the Tiara Rado Driving Range
 - Additionally, some secondary trails going through, skirting more dense wildlife areas
 - There will be signage, and fencing along the road, but the trails will remain natural and unpaved
- b) Forestry Mulcher and River Trail
 - Utilizing a forestry mulcher to open up trail areas in the open space
 - Additionally staff are creating some single track trail areas adjacent to the River Front Trail where folks can dive off paved trail and explore more natural areas
- c) Fall Plantings
 - Planned fall plantings have been completed
 - Vandalized Memorial tree in Lincoln Park was replanted

- d) Removals and Work Requests
 - 250 trees are on the removal list
 - The storm really backed up our progress on evaluation, planting which puts removals behind as well
 - The storm is also generating new trimming requests
- e) ISA International Conference
 - Staff is signed up to attend the conference this year which is fully virtual to complete CEU requirements
 - Lots of good topics/subjects and presentations
- f) PROS Master Plan and Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan
 - Worked hard to make sure the benefits of the tree canopy (all trees, not just park trees) and green infrastructure were captured in the Parks Master Plan
 - Staff made comments in Comprehensive plan regarding educating public about their trees and the benefits of a robust tree canopy from an air quality and storm water management standpoint
 - The Comprehensive Plan suggests completing an Urban Forestry master plan and establishing criteria in the code for preservation of the canopy
 - Also suggests ensuring projects coordinate plantings, tree protection, and preservation of old trees on new construction in established neighborhoods
 - There is a roundabout planned for 24 Rd and staff is working with engineering to try to preserve tree lawns and make sure this entry way to the city has green infrastructure, not just gray.
 - Board members indicated a strong desire to advocate for green infrastructure and will draft a letter in support of staff recommendations
- g) Tree City USA
 - Application due December 17
 - Also applying for the Growth Award
- h) Contractor Licensing
 - The Board has adopted a “firm but fair” policy for exceptions and review requests.
 - Review requests will be evaluated
 - i. If companies have made an effort to get certified, but have failed the test (or haven’t received results yet)
 - ii. If individuals don’t meet ISA’s minimum requirements for certification
 - iii. New applications for companies who were unaware of licensing requirement
 - iv. Additional extenuating circumstances
 - The Board’s decision to enforce the certification requirement stems from a strong desire to ensure that companies are operating at an appropriate professional level.

Bennet Boeschstein made a motion that the Forestry Board approve the process and guidelines for tree care companies to request a Review of Circumstance. The motion was seconded by Kamie Long and carried unanimously.

- The Board determined Review of Circumstances will be specially called meetings attended by a majority of board members.

Kamie Long made a motion that the board call a special meeting, requiring a majority of members in attendance, to evaluate requests for Review of Circumstances. The motion was seconded by Bennett Boeschstein and carried unanimously.

- Board members discussed ways to inform the public about street tree trimming requirements
- Ideas include press releases, social media, more robust pages on the new City website, and updates on the Grand Valley Canopy website.

New Business: No new Business

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:12 a.m.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 8:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist