



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*February 4, 2021
held Virtually*

Meeting called to Order by Mollie Higginbotham, at 8:37 AM.

Roll Call

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

Absent Board Members: Tom Ziola

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Ciara DePinto, Senior Administrative Assistant

Approve Minutes for January 7 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Paul Morency made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and approved unanimously.

Forestry Updates

- a) Aquaponics Presentation
 - Rob shared that he will be presenting on the forestry division's aquaponics system at the Tree City USA conference on February 17 and February 18, 2021. He mentioned how it is great to be a part of this conference where there are lots of attendees.
- b) 2020 Annual Report
 - Rob has been tracking the statistics behind the forestry's yearly work. In 2020, the forestry division managed 9,618 trees, Jamie Boda, the City's Plant Health Specialist, treated 2,053 trees, and the division saw a record-breaking number of tree work requests. Contracted services were also up due to the winter storm in October 2020.
 - Vince commented on the importance of tracking how fast Grand Junction is growing compared to the number of tree services the City has. In response, Bennett shared how the City's Comprehensive Plan shows the City growing at a 1-2% annual rate.
- c) Winter Tree Removals
 - The forestry division is projected to remove 235 trees this winter.

- Rob spoke to the difference between removing trees and planting trees. Even though the division may plant more trees than they remove, the City still is at a deficit in trees since tree removals are typically larger trees where newly planted trees are small.
 - Rob is also tracking areas in the City with no water landscapes and comparing this to tree deaths.
- d) On-Call Contract for Tree Pruning Services
- Rob would like to start an on-call tree pruning service to help with pruning, stump grinding, and removals. Having contracts could help residents keep their dying trees around a little longer.
- e) Spring Tree Orders
- Rob gave an update on the forestry division's spring tree orders. Rob has ordered a mix of bareroot trees, containerized trees, and seedlings. He has \$5,000 worth of trees for Westlake Park and is hoping to receive a \$4,000 grant from the Excel Foundation.
- f) New Seasonal Positions Starting Early
- The forestry division started interviews for seasonal positions in January 2021. Rob hopes to have two seasonal employees starting in the next week.

New Business:

CAO Input on Request for Reviews

- Many contract tree services have not taken the CAO or have not passed the test to become an ISA certified arborist. Due to this, the City of Grand Junction may not have many contracted tree services in 2021.
- Rob mentioned that parks and recreation has an online training service open to any tree service provider.

Arbor Day 2021

- The 2021 Southwest Arbor Fest has been cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Parks and recreation has plans to deliver seedlings to residents just like 2020 and adding an educational piece to the celebration so residents understand how to take care of their seedlings.
- April 17, 2021 will be the start of the Arbor Day celebration.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:37 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ciara DePinto, Senior Administrative Assistant