



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*January 7, 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

Absent Board Members: Susan Carter
Tom Ziola

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

Approve Minutes for Decemer 3 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Paul Morency made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and approved unanimously.

Forestry Updates

- a) Tree City USA Conference Registrations
 - The forestry division will register any board members who are interested in attending. The agenda for the conference isn't set, but expect there to be a wide variety of presentations.
- b) Aquaponics Presentation
 - Rob is preparing a presentation on the Aquaponics system. It's a good reminder of how much work it was to set up and staff is looking forward to putting last year's lessons to work this year.
- c) Tree City USA Application and Growth Awards
 - Rob has turned in the City's Tree City USA Application. Additionally, the City qualified to apply for a Growth Award based on Cody Wright becoming a Certified Arborist, addition of our inventory points by the intern, and the emergency funding for the snow storm response.

- d) 24 Road Planning
 - Rob submitted the letter from the board to the Planning Department which encouraged design review. Planning is considering shrinking the median but no final decision has been made yet.
- e) Fire Station 3 Construction and Tree Planning
 - This is the replacement of the current fire station at Pomona Elementary. The plan is for new construction to take place in the existing parking lot. Demolition of the existing station will replace lost parking spaces.
 - Rob is working to protect trees planted throughout the existing parking lot.
 - Additionally, Rob is working on tree protection standards and addressing gaps in the code so that there is some ability to enforce.
 - The City of Austin has a system that is set up according to inches. 10” of trees removed requires 10” of trees to be replaced. If you can’t replace the tree the fine is \$200/inch.
- f) Portable Mill
 - The Forestry division has acquired a portable mill which can process up to a 30” diameter log. This should allow staff to repurpose the trees removed into more than just mulch or firewood.
- g) Spring Tree Order
 - A vehicle accident in 2020 damaged trees at Desert Vista Park. The City received and insurance payment (which was calculated using the trunk formula) Rob has ordered 39 trees to mitigate the loss of the hawthorne that was destroyed in the accident.
- h) Full Time Hiring Plan
 - The Parks Department is moving forward with hiring to replace Ron Felt, Park Supervisor who is retiring after 45 years, the Crew Leader at the Stadium who retired in October, and a vacant Irrigation Equipment Operator. Other vacancies, including a third arborist, will be revisited in February after December Sales Tax revenues are paid in January.
 - Rob hopes to hire longer term seasonals by advertising the jobs differently and paying a little more. He is hoping to hire folks to work 40 hour/week schedules from early February to November.

New Business:

Forestry Board Licensing Request For Reviews

- Rob knows of one person who may make a request.
- The Board discussed having at least 4 members present at a Request for Review. The person must make a written request to schedule and explain what hardship prevents them from becoming (or hiring) a certified arborist. The applicant will make a presentation and the Board will discuss, make a decision, and follow up with the applicant at a later date.

The Board also briefly discussed enforcement of the Municipal code which prohibits advertising “tree work” unless you are a licensed tree care company.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 9:50 a.m.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 8:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist