



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

June 9, 2021

held Parks Operations Office

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:30 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Bennett Boeschstein
- Mollie Higginbotham
- Kamie Long
- Paul Morency
- Vince Urbina
- Susan Carter
- Chuck McDaniel, Mayor

Absent Board Members: Tom Ziola

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program

Approve Minutes for May 6 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Paul Morency made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6 meeting. Kamie Long, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Forestry Updates

Staff Updates

- Introduction of Chuck McDaniel, Mayor, and Forestry Board-City Council Representative.
- Cody Gentry was promoted to the position of Grand Junction Arborist. Cody is the first female to hold the position. The Forestry Department hired two new staff members (Jermaine and Alex). Brian is beginning to deploy new staff. Nora was selected as the new forestry intern.

Forestry Department Updates

- 200 new trees were planted during this year's spring planting. Emerson and Westlake parks are focus areas. 40 to 50 street plantings were included. The new plantings were well received.
- **Pruning** - 90 pruning requests are open in Lucity. Around 20 new calls for pruning are received daily. The department is still working through 2020 work orders. In addition, there are 60 inspection requests that may turn into work orders. \$10,000 was approved for contracted pruning services.

- Forestry Department presentation made to 12 – 14-year-old youth attending a summer recreation camp at Sherwood Park.
- Projection that Emerald Ash Bore may be an issue this year. Rob has noticed the bug in the Fruita area.
- Cottonwood trees may be in decline.
- **Ash trees** – Rob and Ken Sherbenou toured the city to view the condition of ash. Ash trees are the most common tree in the city. Ash bark beetle may be prominent and a result of the extended drought. Preservation ash trees have been identified and are being treated. Rob suggests the implementation of a public notification program outlining the decline of ash. Belief a marketing component is important, and a reaction strategy is needed. There are 3224 ash in the city, it would take 10 years to remove each tree. The ash decline has demonstrated the need for more tree diversity in the city.
- **Planet GEO** – Is a tree canopy assessment website – Site can show canopy increases and decreases. Only one census block located near Colorado Mesa University had a decline in tree canopy. The site suggests the urban forest has a \$1.8 million benefit to the city. The site has a \$7,000 annual fee for maintenance.

New Business:

- Grand Junction Pest Meeting – Commercial, municipal, and extension persons come together to network. Meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021. Meetings are one hour in duration. A meeting is also scheduled for August 11, 2021.
- Certified Arborist exam scheduled for July.
- A tree risk assessment qualification class may be scheduled locally.
- Resident Tanya Travis would like to attend a Forestry and DRIP Board meeting. She would like to discuss irrigation of certain areas. Due to the drought, this may not be an ideal year to approach the DRIP Board. The Board encourages Tanya to develop a presentation to present.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 10:00 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 1, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program