



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*July 1, 2021  
held Parks Operations Office*

**Meeting called to Order** by Susan Carter, at 8:34 AM.

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Bennett Boeschstein
- Mollie Higginbotham
- Kamie Long
- Paul Morency
- Susan Carter
- Chuck McDaniel, Mayor
- Tom Ziola

Absent Board Members: Vince Urbina

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

**Approve Minutes** for June 9 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9 meeting. Mollie Higginbotham, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Forestry Updates Staff Updates**

#### **Forestry Department Updates**

##### **Ash Borer Treatment Plan**

Public concern/feedback over tree conditions. Rob Davis toured with Parks/Recreation Director and City Manager to view tree conditions firsthand.

- 3200 ash trees in the city.
- Ash trees need treated for lilac ash borer, ash bark beetle, and emerald ash borer.
- 14,000+ city trees, being maintained by three arborists.
- \$45k in added funds was requested for Forestry. Projected that \$20k will pay for eight work orders.
- City Manager inquired about value of contractors completing work versus Forestry staff. City Manager would like immediate action.

- Plans being developed to complete the backlog of work. Difficulties projecting dates/times tree work will be done.
- Crews have been directed to focus on highly visible arterials. Residents have expressed concerns over the appearance of Riverside Parkway.
- Tree injections were discussed for trees with a trunk diameter larger than 25 inches, in good condition, and being cared for.
- Dinotefuran trunk spray was considered. The effectiveness of the pesticide for pest control is unclear. The pesticide would be applied to the tree bark. The application may cause concerns from residents.
- Should emerald ash borer appear locally, a tree protective list will be developed.
- City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director would like to move forward with a treatment program.
- A city intern is currently updating the database with information on trees larger than 25 inches in diameter.
- Attempts being made at developing a program with the Special Projects Team to assist with tree treatments. Forestry is entering uncharted territory regarding treatments. The need to respond, is based on resident feedback to City Manager. City Manager discussed what can be done right now with the support of Special Projects Team and Forestry staff.
- Attempts being made at locating bucket trucks for rental. The closest truck identified was in Alabama.
- Rob Davis is considering placing signs on trees identifying a city treatment plan.
- Forestry is hoping to continue working on work requests. Majority of residents are okay with timeframe for work completion when process is explained.
- City Manager proposed sending invoices to residents who have tree work done, with the form stamped, "PAID by the City of Grand Junction".
- Rob Davis has consulted with DRIP about encouraging continued watering of trees during droughts.
- **Special Motion** – Tom Ziola made motion to implement a short-term treatment plan within budget constraints. Mollie Higginbotham seconded. Motion carried with unanimous vote.
- **Board Recommendations** – Best Management Practices should be followed even when City is pressured to react. City should cease recommending ash trees.

#### **New Business:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Street Project** – Rob discussed tree management plan. Trent Prall was supportive of the proposed tree protection plan recommendations.
- **Budget** – \$5.4 million of city recovery funding available for use on what the pandemic may have put the city behind in. Budget requests are now being submitted.
  - City of Madison, WI issues an urban forestry charge to parcel owners included with utility bills. Parks and Recreation Director suggests the Forestry Board should act as a steering committee for any possible implementation of a similar charge.
  - Rob Davis would like to explore using papermill money to pay for contractor work.
- **Lincoln Park Tree Walk** – Rob Davis likes the appearance of the wooden markers used. Susan Carter recommends possibly applying for grant dollars. Kamie Long suggested identifying Main Street trees as well.
- **Canyon View Park** – Park trees were recently vandalized. Posts were ripped out and chicken wire removed.

- **Misc** – Meredith is retiring from the Colorado State Extension, a retirement party is planned for July 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm. Demonstration Day is being planned for late August. Certified Arborist exam to take place in July.

**Public Comments:** No Public Comments

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:13 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program