



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*October 6, 2021
held Parks Operations Office*

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:37 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bennett Boeschstein
Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham
Kamie Long
Chuck McDaniel, Mayor
Vince Urbina
Tom Ziola

Absent Board Members: Paul Morency

Guests Present: Rich Edwards
Bill Cooper
Dan Komlo
Sara Upin

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Ciara DePinto, Senior Administrative Assistant
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program

Approve Minutes for September 2 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Vince Urbina made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Bennett Boeschstein and carried unanimously.

Forestry Updates

a) Public Education/Marketing

Rich Edwards spoke about concerns over various properties and their condition, along with ash tree concerns. Mr. Edwards would like the city to develop a public information system. Possible use of a website or advertising (e.g., wraps on transit buses and city vehicles, boards on bus shelters, etc.). Proposal to obtain real estate sales information and use it to direct information on required tree care.

Rob Davis suggested taking the approach of communicating the benefit of trees in public education. Discussion of taking the approach of an “environmental alert” with a marketing/public education program. Vince Urbina spoke of an existing program titled, Save Our Shade, that is not copywritten and could be made available. Sara Upin inquired about local nurseries responsibility to discourage the sales of ash trees going forward. Susan Carter mentioned the city is no longer accepting ash trees in landscape plans. In addition, the CSU Extension is not encouraging the planting of ash trees and is starting to encourage the planting of other tree species. The inclusion of information on proper tree watering should be a key component of marketing/public education. Rich Edwards communicated he has registered two website addresses that could be assigned to a website. Statement was made the Grand Valley Canopy website is active and just needs additional content. Suggestions on how to direct marketing materials included.

1. Utilizing census block data, based on canopy cover, to identify areas to target with materials.
2. Creation of informational packets to provide realtors for distribution to new homeowners.
3. Attachment of a document to a tree or building outlining tree care tips and tree values.

Susan Carter proposed the scheduling of a meeting to further discuss public education. Rob Davis will schedule the meeting and will send invitation to all Board members. Any members who can attend would be welcomed. The meeting will be scheduled in November.

b) Forestry Board

City Council will begin conducting interviews for individuals seeking an appointment to the Board. The municipal code does outline background requirements for Board members. Kamie Long would be available for panel interviews.

c) Updates

42 work orders currently open in TRIM. Arborists now be focused on new plantings, followed by holiday lights, then removals, spring plantings, and finally trimmings.

Board member suggestion to invite Arborists to a future meeting during the timeframe removals are taking place.

Trunk injections are taking place. Rob outlined the plan to treat trees marked with a green colored dots in an effort to slow the ash bark beetle.

North American Training Solutions will be coming to Grand Junction for a technical rigging course, possibly at Matchet Park.

Tom Ziola discussed Saluting Branches event that took place at the Veterans’ Cemetery. Volunteers from CSU, Alpine Tree Service, US Bank, T4, and the City of Grand Junction, planted and pruned trees.

New Business

a) Gold Leaf Award Application

The City of Grand Junction has applied to the ISA for consideration.

b) Siberian Elm

Siberian Elm was added to the State of Colorado Noxious Weed Watch List. Susan Carter will draft a letter on behalf of the Board directed to Colorado Department of Agriculture and Noxious Weed Council. The letter will detail the fact Siberian elm is part of the local canopy and does well in the area.

c) Spotted Lantern Fly

The spotted lantern fly was found in Pennsylvania and possibly Kansas. The insect likes trees of Heaven. In anticipation of the fly arriving in Colorado, the CSU Extension has prepared a lantern fly fact sheet.

d) SHIFT Summit (Shaping How To Invest For Tomorrow)

Summit to be held in Grand Junction, October 18 – October 20. Rob is scheduled to speak. The event has a holistic feel.

e) Ash Tree Treatment Program

Desire from City Council to assist residents with ash tree treatments. The city will request bids from companies to conduct treatments. Suggestion on providing incentives based on canopy cover census block data. Effort to provide more incentives tied to lower wage-earning areas. Additional discussion to possibly tie in tree planting incentives as well. Forecast is that treating 100 trees would cost around \$25,000. It would be more expensive to cut and remove trees when compared to treatments.

f) Updates

Vince Urbina inquired if Board would like a certified arborist test to be scheduled in 2022. The Board agreed it would like a test to be scheduled.

Vince Urbina will work with Kamie Long to conduct pruning workshops that will qualify as continuing education.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 10:05 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Weed Abatement Program