



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*February 3, 2022 - In Person and held digitally*

**Meeting called to Order** by Kamie Long, at 8:35 AM.

### Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bennett Boeschstein  
Susan Carter  
Bill Cooper  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Dan Komlo  
Kamie Long  
Chuck McDaniel, Mayor  
Vince Urbina

Absent Board Members: N/A

Guests Present: Tanya Travis

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor  
Felix Landry, Planning Supervisor  
Lance Glass, Senior Planner  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

### **Approve Minutes**

Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo and carried unanimously (Susan Carter abstained).

### **Election of Officers**

Vince made a motion nominating Susan Carter to be Chair of the Forestry Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Kamie Long and carried unanimously (Susan Carter abstained).

Kamie Long made a motion nominating Vince Urbina to be Vice Chair of the Forestry Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Bill Cooper and carried unanimously.

### **Forestry Updates**

#### **2022 Private ash treatment and replacement program update**

The bids came were opened on the private ash treatment program. One company bid on the program. Because there was only a single response, City Council will review. The bid was for \$11/inch; the going rate is \$17/inch. To qualify for the program trees must be in residentially zoned lots, 8" or larger, in fair condition, and in landscapes showing clear signs of stewardship. Residents

will pay half the fee and the City will pay the other half. Board members asked to see the scope of the project now that the bid process is complete. Rob will send it out.

### **Removal and Stump Grinding**

Requested removals have been completed save for a few trees which require traffic control or need a safety zone. There are 11 trees in Whitman and Emerson park which need removal. Additionally there are 250 “black dot” trees identified for removal during the treatment of City-owned ash trees this summer which require removal as well. Trees are being posted prior to removal.

Staff has picked up the new grapple truck and are putting it to work.

### **Las Colonias and Rotary tree planting**

The Rotary Club is interested in another large tree planting and has identified Las Colonias Park. The large turf (festival) area has been identified as a location that could use trees around the perimeter.

### **New Business**

#### **Development Regulations Update**

Lance Gloss, Senior Planner, talked with the board about the Landscaping Code. A task force has been assembled to help with the revisions to this code and staff would like input from the Forestry Board as well. The code addresses issues such as water conservation, acceptable plant material, minimum plant sizes, landscape plans, significant/mature trees, parking lot landscaping, general landscape standards, etc. Lance invited written comments as the code progresses through the revision process. Board members are concerned about balancing water conservation with the future of the tree canopy in Grand Junction, and how this code might be enforced especially around plant substitutions that vary from approved landscape plans. Board members would like to see ‘waterwise’ language used rather than ‘xeric’.

#### **Siberian Elm added to CDA’s noxious weed watch list**

Susan Carter is working on a letter addressing the addition of this species to the watch list.

#### **Public Comment**

In the interest of time, Rob invited Tanya Travis to share with the board. Ms. Travis is working with Colorado Tree Coalition and is organizing volunteers to assist with Forestry projects.

#### **Education and Outreach – Topic Assignments**

List of local nurseries – Dan Komlo

Hiring a licensed arborist – Bill Cooper

City vs. Private Trees – Rob Davis

List of Resources – Susan Carter

Economic Value of Trees – Vince Urbina (working off PlanIT Geo fact sheet)

Herbicides – Jamie Boda (City staff)

Top 10 trees – this list is pretty close to complete  
Relationship between Water and Trees – Rob  
General Tree Care – Bill and Kamie Long will work together on this

### **Desire for New Licensing Category**

The board discussed how to handle groups doing work on trees inside City limits but not typical tree work, such as utilizing a SWIFT crew for fire mitigation work. The Board talked about a clearing and grubbing license and also were concerned about companies using this as a way around a standard license. The Board will consider the correct path for developing a sawyer and/or clearing and grubbing license in the future. Kamie Long talked with the board about a fire mitigation project that would take advantage of grant monies, using a SWIFT crew.

Vince Urbina made a motion that the Forestry Board supports this Colorado Parks and Wildlife project of fire mitigation work utilizing a SWIFT crew inside City limits. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously. Kamie Long abstained from the vote, and Susan Carter was no longer attending the meeting and did not vote. Rob will work with the City Attorney's office to create a letter of agreement between the City and State to allow the SWIFT crew to function as a fire mitigation team inside City limits.

Vince Urbina made a motion that the Board pursue creation of Sawyer and Clearing and Grubbing License categories in the future. The motion was seconded by Kamie Long and carried unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:39 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, March 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist