



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

January 13, 2022 - held digitally

Meeting called to Order by Kamie Long, at 10:32 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bennett Boeschstein
Bill Cooper
Mollie Higginbotham
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Chuck McDaniel, Mayor
Vince Urbina

Absent Board Members:

Susan Carter

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Ciara DePinto, Senior Administrative Assistant/Marketing
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Approve Minutes

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

The current board chair is absent due to illness. The board tabled the election until the February meeting.

Forestry Updates

City Council reviewing code regarding Alternate Board Members

City Council is reviewing the structure of current boards and commissions and considering a change making current alternate members, full board members. No drawbacks have been identified to promoting alternate members. The change would require a change to the municipal code.

Private Ash Treatment and Replacement Program Update

The private ash program which the board discussed in December is available through the City purchasing process and is soliciting a vendor. The solicitation closes next Wednesday.

Education and Outreach

Basic information is on the City Forestry Website. Rob would like feedback from the board about the content by the end of January, though he is trying to keep it simple. www.gicity.org/forestry

Ciara has created a flyer and the goal is to use the flyer to drive traffic to the website for more detailed information. Ciara is also working to develop a tri-fold handout to distribute to homebuyers. Vince Urbina offered to help with the creation of the flyer and the distillation of information. Where do citizens go for information, what are the best trees and where do citizens go for help. Mollie reminded the board of the importance of offering non-internet based resources. Board members suggested prioritizing resources, and making sure the internet is completely up to date since printed materials will drive traffic to the website.

Removal and Stump Grinding

There are less than 10 citizen removal requests remaining then crews will turn their attention to the 230 street trees identified as in need of removal. The new grapple truck is ready for pick up.

Penn State Arborist Series

All four City arborists are signed up for training being offered by Penn State. This training follows the ISA study guide and should help all of them obtain their ISA certification.

Landscaping Code Task Force

Community Development is updating the landscape code. Staff will attend the February meeting to talk with the Board about this in more depth.

Canopy Analysis detail update

PlanIT Geo is working on a rough appraisal of the value of the tree canopy (both public and private trees)

I-70 Business Loop – 1st to 4th

Rob shared with the board that CDOT is working on concepts for I 70 B from 1st through 4th. CDOT is interested in preserving the trees and keeping the area multi-modal. They are exploring ways to develop the area in such a way that the City would maintain areas which are currently maintained by the adjacent land owner. That would have a large staff impact for Parks and Recreation from a maintenance perspective.

New Business

Siberian elm added to CDA noxious weed watch list

The board tabled this item until February.

Certified Arborist Exam

The written ISA exams are scheduled for June 3 and August 3. City staff may test electronically if no April exam date is available.

Unlicensed Tree Services and Subcontracting

Rob talked with the board about a number of incidents where (generally) property management companies have hired unlicensed tree contractors to maintain trees in the city limits. C&D Tree was stopped maintaining trees for the Housing Authority. They are trying to find a way to work within the code where they could hire a sub-contractor to do the tree work and they would do all

the ground work. Initially they tried to have a certified arborist located in Florida served as their arborist for licensing purposes which does not meet the intent of the requirement. If they are allowed to sub-contract then Licensed company x would do the work, but all their trucks and equipment would still be on site and that muddies the waters when it comes to proving who is actually doing the work. This really dove tails well with the development conversation on the February Agenda. Tree work is dangerous and not everyone should be doing it.

Arbor Day 2022

Rob has worked with the City Clerk's office to have City Council proclaim April 23rd Arbor in Grand Junction. Plan to use the 2020 plan for Southwest Arborfest (that was our first COVID cancellation). Board members mentioned that there is a strong desire to keep the schools involved, and other ideas from that year (nature playground, tree raffle, urban wood raffle) are worth continuing as well. Rob shared that Juniper Ridge is very interested in an Arbor Day planting. Seedling availability is questionable. The usual vendor only has 2 varieties and an alternate vendor has more varieties, but doesn't ship seedlings in pots.

Kamie shared the original digital version of the Tree and Shrub Guide with board members for their revisions and updates.

Vince reminded the Board that the Western Slope Emerging Pests group decided to meet the last Wednesday of the Month. The first meeting is March 30.

Rob reminded the Board that part of the municipal code surrounding the Forestry Board indicates they will establish rules and regulations for Tree Services and regulations around tree protections.

Kamie Long reminded the Board of Action Items

- Review the Tree and Shrub Guide

- Review the top 10 shade/ornamental trees

- Review Municipal Code Chapter 8.32 around Trees

Public Comment

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 11:47 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, February 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM. (The board will continue to discuss and may choose to meet on February 10 depending on member availability.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist