



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*July 7, 2022 - In Person and held digitally*

**Meeting called to Order** by Susan Carter, at 8:33 AM.

### Roll Call

Board Members Present: Susan Carter  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Dan Komlo  
Kamie Long  
Vince Urbina

Board Members Absent: Bennett Boeschstein  
Bill Cooper  
Chuck McDaniel

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space  
Ken Sherbenou, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

### **Approve Minutes**

Vince Urbina moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo and carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Tanya Travis talked about the Arboretum project. All the trees have been identified and she's ready to coordinate volunteers for post sanding and plate installation. Tanya Travis will work with Tanya Marchun to coordinate providing the vendor with clean QR codes for the arboretum plates. Tanya Travis also requests that staff create a place where tamper resistant screws/bits can be stored so that these items are centralized for long term maintenance. Tanya Travis asked the board how they would like to be involved long term.

### **Forestry Updates**

#### **Existing Work Orders Pending**

Rob shared that staff has 43 work orders; four from end of 2021, two are for parks, two ROW trees we continue to have issues getting the cars moved so that trees can be trimmed. (This is down from 80 requests noted at last meeting.) Staff is struggling with equipment issues and are still down one chipper but using grapple to continue working. The green waste site has started charging this year, \$15/load which will have a budgetary impact over the course of the year.

There are 220 removal pending which are almost all ash trees from this year's inspections.

Stump removals down to 62 from 115.

### **Plant Health Care**

1249 trunk sprays completed (mostly ash), 357 elm scale treatments completed, and some aphid, and honey dew treatments downtown (104).

City ash injections are beginning on trees 25" and larger for the third year. Staff purchased metal disc tags to label the trees which have gotten injected. Staff are working through organizing the treatment trees into 3 cohesive years.

Currently, trunks are painted as follows:

black – removal

green – treated last year

blue – treated this year

Some trees received no 2022 mark. These trees are receiving no specific treatment this year, and staff are evaluating for future options.

### **Private Ash Treatment**

So far, 314 addresses have requested evaluation. 206 trees have qualified for treatment, and \$35,000 in treatments are planned. About \$25,000 of the spray budget remains.

100 trees qualify for the rebate program though zero people have requested rebates. Currently the rebates only apply to ash program participants, but due to low response staff may ask Council to consider expanding to general planting rebate.

### **Mesa County Library Presentation**

Rob gave an hour-long presentation for 90 attendees. At the conclusion of the presentation there were about 45 minutes of questions.

### **New Business**

#### **Education and Marketing**

Tanya Marchun met with staff from T4 Tree Service to capture injection footage and has also met with City staff working through their spray treatments. Tanya will create a video to help further advertise treatment and rebate options. Board members wondered if a hard copy flyer or door hanger for T4 to give out (or if program is expanded for staff to give out) to disqualified trees so people have the information readily available to access the planting program money.

Tanya shared that her long-term vision includes working up a 30 second/1 minute video to increase engagement around the current program. In the future, she hopes to work on a series of longer videos to help expand education and drive interest around watering, health, and other tree issues. Board members wondered how videos get out to the public. Board members shared concern that if the only promotion is through the website we might miss an important section of the public. Tanya will work with the board to determine what methods might be the most effective for gaining the widest audience.

Board members also wondered if outreach could focus on areas that needs trees based on the census block assessment. Additionally, members voiced concerns that our practice is to plant ROW trees where automated irrigation exists. Does this disproportionately impact lower income neighborhoods?

How does the Forestry Board ensure that those neighborhoods are not disproportionately adversely impacted where tree canopy is concerned? The board discussed a number of outreach and education topics that the Board could tackle as a future standing agenda item: Watering, education around the existence of the ordinance (in general), outreach beyond social media, etc.

### **Chapter 8.32 updates**

Rob Davis talked with the board about updating the Code. Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about the increasing awareness and attention public trees are receiving. Per the goals of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space master plan, evaluation and updating of the code makes sense.

The Board committed to spending the last half hour of each meeting (more time if it's available) working through the Code starting with the draft the Forestry Board previously had begun working on. This will allow the board to gather feedback from the Department Director, City Attorney's Office, City Manager and other folks as issues arise.

Susan Carter shared with the board that 50 people attended the Japanese beetle meeting. The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has backed off their desire to drop the quarantine requirements and are working on increased trapping on the western slope in areas outside the CSU Extension Office's jurisdiction. CDA has increased their focus on the spotted lantern fly. The tree of heaven (a favorite of the spotted lantern fly) is likely going to be added to List C (of the noxious species list) in the next year or two.

Kamie Long talked with the Board about the planting guide she put together and wondered if the Board wanted to endorse that as document which could be forwarded to the nurseries for distribution. The Board felt strongly that standard messaging from the nurseries could really help with success of the trees and the added visuals are an important component to help folks understand proper planting techniques. Kamie will add the Forestry Board logo and link to the video so that the Board can distribute the document to nurseries.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 10:02 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 8:30 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist