



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*June 8, 2022 - In Person and held digitally*

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

### Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Bennett Boeschenstein

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

### **Approve Minutes**

Vince Urbina moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously.

### **Forestry Updates**

Crews are working on pruning workorders, 45 are from 2021 80 total (so far).

There are already 138 removals pending, 115 were generated by 2022 ash inspections from South Ave to Belford. This year ash trees which are being treated are receiving blue dots. Some of the green dot trees from last year didn't do as well as hoped and are now black dot trees.

The stump grinder was down from 5/4 – 6/1, so the crews have a backlog of 115 stumps to grind.

Riverside Pkwy replacements – these plantings are complicated by their location (one lane of traffic on each side), the stump grinder being out of commission, and the increasing daily temperatures. All EB traffic would have to be shut down, and Pub Works is asking staff to do that on a Sunday. This is now scheduled for replanting in the fall.

Now that the stump grinder is repaired crews are working on stumping Grand Avenue so those trees can be replaced.

Forestry's focus is on treatments. The new intern started last week, Peyton, and she is marking street trees. 736 trees from South Ave to Belford have been marked for treatment. Jamie Boda is treating park trees.

Of the removals that have already occurred, replacements may be low because many of the trees are dying due to lack of water and often, property owners have removed irrigation. Board members wondered if we could increase education around watering. Tanya Marchun, the new Sr. Admin Assistant who focuses on marketing is interested in creating informational videos. Board members also suggested adding flyers to water bills and creating a press release.

Rob updated the board on the private ash treatment program, currently 74 trees qualify for rebate, 245 addresses have contacted T4 about program. Staff has not had requests for rebates, so we will reach out to folks who qualified in order to reiterate details about the availability and process and encourage planting of new, non-ash trees.

Staff are noticing that some trees which were treated last year need to be removed. Though there is still no evidence of emerald ash borer, many treated and trimmed trees have deadwood again this year. There are some streets north of north and east of 12<sup>th</sup> which are going to lose all their street trees.

This year, blue dot trees should be 70% canopy remaining. Borderline trees are getting no dot. We aren't going to treat them but we aren't marking them for removal yet. Trunk injected trees were definitely more successful than trunk spray trees. Cedar Avenue looks a lot better this year. Clearly the injection is a lot more effective.

### **New Business**

**Arboretum Markers** – Vince is working with Tanya Travis on replacing markers. Forestry staff can mill the posts from removal wood and Tanya will coordinate new markers. Expenses will be submitted to Rob. Forestry Board members are invited to volunteer to help with installation of replacement posts.

### **Forestry Board Code**

Council is moving forward with everyone being a full member (versus having alternates). Rob has suggested other changes including remove language around spraying since the State of Colorado manages spray licenses and changing the language around qualification for a license since the board requires the ISA test. Rob will inquire with the City Attorney's office about permanently including an Extension Office member in addition to (or perhaps and/or) a forest service member. Board members discussed pros and cons of keeping representatives from both organizations. Though it locks in a couple of spots it does provide the board with expertise and a higher level (more state-wide) perspective.

### **Chapter 8 Municipal Code Updates**

The municipal code directs the Forestry Board to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to the tree service business in the City. It has been some time since the board reviewed these regulations and

they may require updating. Additionally, this is one of the objectives identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space master plan. Board members suggested looking that the existing code as well as examples from other municipalities.

### **Education and Outreach**

Board members continue to be interested in increasing education and outreach. Suggestions include partnering with an organization who has a booth at the Farmer's Market, working on the perception of native trees in Grand Junction as a nuisance, increasing the information available about why trees are important by making use of radio outlets, the Daily Sentinel, and/or TV options. Additionally, members suggested trees be a topic in the monthly Gardening Talk segment through Master Gardeners.

### **Development Code Updates**

Board members discussed the latest round of Development Code updates. Board members feel strongly that certified irrigation design should be required. It is a standard all over the state. Board members feel there is a strong emphasis in the code about the importance of water but it lacks regulations that could help control water use.

### **Pests**

Susan Carter updated the board on a number of pests around the valley.

The American plum borer has been found all over the valley. The next step is to assess the damage.

The pinon ips seems to be especially prevalent in Austrian pine who lost tops from cold as well as in drought stressed trees.

The CSU Extension office is still evaluating effective treatments for the yucca moth.

On June 30 at noon at the Mesa County Community Building (C) there will be a demonstration/explanation of Japanese beetle. The Extension office is seeking stakeholder input to provide to CDA to prevent dropping the quarantine.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:17 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 8:30 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist