



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*March 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: Rich Edwards

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

### **Approve Minutes**

Kamie Long noted some small corrections, and the need to remove Susan Carter from the Absent Board member list. Kamie made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously

### **Forestry Updates**

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

The bid for the private ash tree treatment program was accepted by City Council. T4 Tree Service will be the vendor administering treatment. The official launch of the program will be on Arbor Day and registrations into the program will be accepted on a first come first served basis. There will be an online registration document for folks to fill out and submit which places them on the list for evaluation.

As discussed, this program is a 50/50 cost share between citizen and City. There is a minimum treatment cost of \$225 (112.50 each) and a maximum cost share of \$500. HOAs are invited to participate in the program for trees in common areas, but the same maximum cost share applies to them as well. To be treated, trees must have no more than 30% canopy decline. Trees which are not able to be treated may qualify for the rebate portion of the program. The City will pay up to

\$300 per address for replacement trees. For both the treatment and rebate program, the landscape must show clear signs of stewardship.

### **Removal and Stump Grinding**

Forestry crews are working through the removals. 1500 inches (about 85 trees) have been removed so far (which will take 750 2 inch caliper trees to replace). 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 still need to be addressed as well. Trees are being posted prior to removal. Crews started working at South Avenue and are working north. They have worked up to Ouray Ave so far.

### **Seasonal and full time hiring**

The seasonal pool was strong this year, though some candidates have dropped out based on the drug testing requirement.

There are full time positions open in Open Space and Plant Health and those recruitments are proceeding.

### **Tree planting season is coming**

Rotary is targeting the first Saturday of May for their large planting. Board members wondered about the gaps in tree plantings on Riverside Parkway. Those trees were mostly removed due to insect damage.

### **Education and Marketing**

Rob shared the new logo and mascot for the Root For Your Ash program. Ciara DePinto who has been instrumental in working with the graphic company to get this design accomplished has accepted a job working for the Town of Fruita. We’ll miss her!

### **New Business**

#### **Demo Day – CSU Extension**

March 26 event with set up at 7:30am and the event from 9am – 1pm at the extension office. The Forestry Board has typically had a booth. It could be a great opportunity to promote Arbor Fest, the Ash program, watering of right or way trees and other important initiatives.

### **Siberian Elm**

The state has placed the Siberian Elm on the noxious weed watch list. This can have implications where development codes are concerned. As the third most prevalent tree in the City inventory, were this classification formalized there could be significant impacts to the Grand Junction canopy.

### **Classes and Continuing Education**

TRAQ - will be held the last week of September

Western Slope Emerging Pests – will be held March 30 at the CSU Extension office

### **Arbor Day 2022 Agenda**

Gearing up for seedling delivery the week of Arbor Day. Having the Forestry Board members and Master Gardeners help with distribution was effective. Kody Gentry will be running the distribution this year. Having a route mapped was helpful and individually labeling seedlings this year will be helpful. Kamie took pictures of how to plant a seedling, which could be a great resource to direct people towards to give the seedlings a better chance of success.

For Arbor Day we'll be set up in the plaza area of the pool (on the same side of the loop road as the rest of the festival). The Master Gardeners will be there, we'll have a silent auction for urban wood and larger containerized trees, as well as a notable tree tour.

### **Development Regulations**

Significant progress has been made on the updates to the Development regulations, especially around the area of significant tree protections and other positive changes to tree regulations. Rob still has some concern around the number of trees required in landscapes classified as "water wise" and "high desert."

### **Desire for new licensing categories**

The CPW/SWIFT project has received approval to work inside City Limits removing tamarisk and Russian olive to make way for cottonwoods to grow. Further discussion on new licensing categories will be revisited at a future meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 10:33 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist