



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

September 1, 2022 - In Person and held digitally

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:34 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Susan Carter Bennett Boeschstein
Bill Cooper	Dan Komlo Kamie Long Vince Urbina Chuck McDaniel
Board Members Absent:	Mollie Higginbotham
Guests	Rich Edwards
Parks & Recreation Staff Present:	Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space Felix Landry, Planning Supervisor Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Approve Minutes

Kamie Long moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously.

Public Comments

None. Board members noted Tanya Travis is still working on arboretum, though is out of town so needs some help. Seven trees need new videos. Board will help with new descriptions for folks to record. Tanya Marchun has sent the QR plate and identification information to the Trophy Case for fabrication.

Development Landscape Regulations Update

Felix Landry gave the board an overview of the Development Regulations Update process so far. The process was meant to update vague language, provide clarity for staff enforcement, for the development community for implementation, and to better fit the climate of Grand Junction with what is realistic for our weather/temperature. In particular, the Board voiced concern about changes to the significant tree designation and the removal of the cottonwoods from the list. That change was made based on feedback from the development community. Additionally, board members voiced concerns that the prohibited tree list should be trees that are not allowed to be planted, not just trees that are disqualified from the significant tree list. Finally, the board expressed concern that, given the drought

conditions experienced here and in the West in general, there is no requirement for a certified irrigation designer to be required for developing irrigation plans. Mr. Landry advised the Board that the next steps for these updates are to be presented at a City Council meeting on September 21 where public comment will be welcome. Well rounded public feedback helps Council make the best decision.

Forestry Updates

Ash Treatment Review

Rob shared with the board comparison pictures of ash trees from 2021 and in 2022. Trunk Spray trees from 7th street show that, overall, decline has progressed in a lot of trunk spray trees. University research still indicates you don't need to manage this pest, and that it isn't a problem. The City has undertaken a treatment program based on what staff were seeing in the field. The bigger the tree, the less effective the trunk spray appears to be. Treated trees appear to be stable with a couple of instances where trees show improvement.

Public Tree Maintenance

There are 6 pruning requests out-standing; the oldest is from August 15, 2022. 210 removals are pending (196 are ash trees identified by inspection) and 78 stumps are pending. Equipment remains an issue as the stump grinder broke down again. Staff are injecting elm trees to treat scale.

Tree Planting

The City received a grant to increase shade at the Las Colonias River Park. 27 balled in burlap cottonwoods have been planted there, and Riverside Parkway will have 35 balled in burlap trees planted in the medians on September 11 to replace ash trees the were lost to due pests.

Private Ash Treatments

So far, there have been 436 requests for service. 480 trees have been treated for a cost of \$48K (City portion). \$11K remains of the original budget. 148 properties are qualified for tree planting rebates but so far staff have only received 2 submissions.

Chapter 8.32 Code Update

Due to a long discussion about the Landscape Code Revision, the Board tabled this discussion for this meeting.

New Business

Kamie noted that there was a comment on a gardening page a bout the removal of spirea from 5th street and disappointment that the public was not offered the opportunity to take those plants (as has happened in years past).

New Board members are being interviewed on 9/28. Bennett is up for renewal, Kamie is as well, but no other State Foresters applied so she does not have to re-interview. There were other applications for Bennett's spot.

Vince is teaching a TRAQ (tree risk assessment qualification) class at the end of the month (16 enrollees, 2 are renewals).

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:31

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist