



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*December 1, 2022*

**Meeting called to Order** by Susan Carter, at 8:31 AM.

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Susan Carter
- Joseph Chandler
- Bill Cooper
- Mollie Higginbotham
- Dan Komlo
- Kamie Long
- Vince Urbina
- Chuck McDaniel

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present:

- Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
- Felix Landry, Planning Supervisor
- Lance Gloss, Planning and Community Development
- Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

### **Introduction of New Board Member**

Joseph Chandler introduced himself to the board. He has worked with WD Yards for 15 years and is ISA Certified.

### **Approve Minutes**

Vince made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo and carried unanimously.

### **Announcement**

Susan Carter has been hired as the Director of CSU Extension Office in Chaffee County. This will be her last meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Brandon who works for Alpine Tree Service specializing in Plant Health Care attending the meeting, but had no particular comments at this time.

### **Development Code Update**

Felix gave an update of the Development Code Ordinance changes. The primary changes are in definitions and the significant tree list. Definitions clarify caliper measurements for new plantings and DBH for existing trees. Other definitions include primary development, to help clear up the significant tree portion. If the significant tree is impeding the primary development then administratively a 10% adjustment for changes to planning requirements may be allowed. Trees will still be replaced at 3 per 5 inches. If trees cannot be replaced then a shift is made to a fee in lieu. Fee in lieu will be calculated based on the value of replacement tree and the cost to install. That installation will happen on public property, not necessarily on site.

The Board wondered about getting a contract bid rate for installation so that a standard fee per tree could be published as well as for these fees to be kept separate and specifically for trees (as opposed to into the general fund).

The code is on the December 7 Council Agenda for first reading to set the public hearing. It is on the Planning Commission Agenda for December 13 and then comes back to City Council for second hearing and potential adoption council on December 21. The Board feels like this is a nice balance between protecting canopy, accommodating developers, and making the regulations easily applicable for staff. Felix reminded the board that along with this document staff will publish (administratively) tree protection standards and suitable plants list. Keeping these documents administrative rather than codified allows the City Forester to make decisions based on the situation.

### **Urban Forestry Master Plan**

Lance Gloss updated the board on the Urban Forestry Master (Management) Plan. In an effort to gather information for the plan, Lance has been soliciting feedback from board members, staff and other foresters in Colorado. Lance talked with the board about canopy coverage goals for the City. Canopy coverage goals for other cities include Phoenix - 25%, Boise - 25% (current coverage 16%). Boulder - 16% with a no net loss strategy, and Bozeman - 14% with a goal of 33%. Staff are exploring ideas for setting a canopy goal for Grand Junction. Is it one city number, is it determined by zone district, council district, neighborhood, community center/corridor, or even where people spend their time (downtown, schools, parks, etc)? Current canopy coverage in Grand Junction is 11%. Lance continues to review best practices, partners, audiences and tactics which should be addressed in the plan.

### **Forestry Board Logo**

Kody Gentry has been working on some ideas for revamping the Forestry Board Logo (avoiding the codominant stem of the current logo). Kody presented 12 options. Board members like Mt. Garfield in the background, the silhouette option, and the use of a deciduous tree. Kody will distill down and bring back to the board.

### **Board Appreciation Dinner**

Board members were reminded of the appreciation dinner on December 5.

### **CTC Grant**

Rob talked with the board about the CTC grant. Time is winding down for application. Board members are concerned that people on Main Street don't understand how cool the trees are and would like to highlight those trees. Perhaps they could be identified by welding signs to metal grates?

Board members also wondered if the City recommends Tree Risk Assessment Consultants? Board members suggested adding a section to the Licensed tree care companies list.

### **Forestry Updates**

Vince shared with the board he is trying to get a tree appraisal training offered here in Grand Junction (rather than on Front Range).

The Pest Management Workshop will be 2/14 and 15.

Rob shared with the Board some Forestry updates. The response to the 11/4/2022 storm included addressing 142 locations.

Based on regular season evaluations, there are 251 removals on the list that staff will be working on over the winter. Staff have just completed training with North American Training Solutions. They spent 2 days on electrical hazard awareness, aerial rescue, and chainsaw maintenance and safety.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Rob has a conflict with the scheduled January 5 meeting. The meeting was rescheduled for January 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Kamie reminded the board that it has been a while since the Forestry Board hosted a tree workshop. There is always a need for more hands on, intensive training to set standard and give folks a good workshop and offered the USFS arboretum as a place where there is opportunity for lots of hands-on training.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:37 am

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, January 13, 2023 at 8:30 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist