



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*June 1, 2023*

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Brandon Kanwischer  
Dan Komlo  
Kamie Long  
Vince Urbina

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler

City Council Liaison:

Cody Kennedy

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space  
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support

**Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:32 am.**

### **Approve Minutes**

Vince Urbina made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously.

**Public Comment - NONE**

### **New Business**

#### **Introduction of Cody Kennedy**

Cody Kennedy, City Council Member, was introduced to the Board. Rob Davis provided an overview of Board roles and explained powers and duties associated with the Forestry Board.

### **Forestry Updates**

#### **Staff Updates**

Five forestry staff members were redeployed to assist with JUCO and Memorial Day preparation and staffing. Once holiday and special event have past, the department will be able to resume a normal routine.

### **Ash Trees**

The city has now begun injection treatments for trees with a 13" dbh (diameter-breast-height). Crews have injected 172 trees with an average of 12 to 17 trees injected daily. Suggestion that many ash trees will need to be removed. Rob mentioned 337 property owners signed up for private tree treatments (Root for Your Ash). Still have availability for property owners to sign up.

### **Main Street Arboretum**

Welding students at Western Colorado Community College are creating markers for trees. Sign board still need designed and created. Idea to place three boards. Sign boards will need to be placed by September in order to meet grant requirement. 48 trees to be included in arboretum. Various species of trees included were presented to the Board. Information contained in the City of Grand Junction website concerning the Lincoln Park Arboretum was presented. Board recommended adding a link to the website profiling other arboretum tours in the area (e.g., Colorado Mesa University, Fairgrounds, Main Street).

### **Lucity**

35 work requests pending in the system. Forestry staff should be able to address pending requests in short order at the conclusion of JUCO. Ideally, one crew would address Lucity requests, and second crew would respond to city needs.

### **Planet GEO**

Review of tree canopy data in website. Discussion of census block data. Removal of ash trees are contributing to the reduction in canopy, both from city and resident removals. During the last decade and specifically the last three years, tree plantings have greatly increased. Tree planting protections are important, specifically regarding city trees. Discussion of a publication with instructions on how to add rock to landscape following turf elimination. The publication will also provide information on how to remove turf without damaging tree roots. Groups are looking to train contractors on how to remove turf and protect trees. An explanation would be given on how to remove turf without damaging roots. The project is ISA sponsored and provides a lot of good information.

### **New Business**

A subcommittee meeting with Tanya (Parks & Recreation-Marketing) is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. The creation of a trifold brochure for real estate agents to distribute will be discussed. The brochure will discuss topics such as watering, tree selection, care and management, licensed tree care services, city services, also a QR code with link to a website with more in depth information.

Continued discussion of table at Farmer's Market. Still in need of Board members to sign up to staff the table during a couple dates. Supplies for the market identified were a canopy (dependent on location of table), binder with fact sheets, banner, samples, and Root for Your Ash materials. A location to store the supplies needs to be identified so that they are accessible to members.

Based on Board availability, August 1 was identified as the date to hold August meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:10 am

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting** - Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 8:30 AM. (Kamie Long will be absent)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support