



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

May 4, 2023

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Joseph Chandler
Bill Cooper
Mollie Higginbotham
Brandon Kanwischer
Kamie Long
Vince Urbina

Board Members Absent:

Dan Komlo

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

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

Approve Minutes

Bill Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes noting the removal of Lance and Tanya from the roll call of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously.

Public Comment - NONE

New Business

Arbor Day Feedback

The board felt Arbor Day was a really successful community event and is already looking forward to next year. The addition of the seedling tags printed by Bookcliff Gardens, the well-timed TV Spots, and the food for volunteers were really positive. Next year, the board would like to add more signage at the event about the schedule and the silent auction trees. They would like to show a video about planting seedlings and have a coniferous option. More copies of the tree list handouts and planting information, pictures of what people have made out of urban wood, and name tags for board members were among the improvements the board thought about for next year. Staff thought a gear table, and a climbing demo would be good additions as well.

Board members wondered if seedling deliveries were necessary. Rob reminded the board that we started it during COVID right after everything had really closed down. People do appreciate it so it is

harder to dial it back. Board members noted that google map doesn't consistently find all the houses, and it would be helpful to more directly say that on the form so folks can provide instructions.

Education Subcommittee Update

Bill talked with the board about an idea for a Valley Wide notable tree tour. Each month see a new tree or a couple trees. It could be a bike tour with a different route of 5-ish trees each month. The Education committee thought it could be really advantageous to do another smaller event for community tree education. Develop a bigger tour (crabapples at CSU extension), a fall walk series, tours in Lincoln Park, along Main, at the CSU Extension arboretum in the fairgrounds, or in the downtown core. Each walk could be an opportunity to talk about how to identify trees, negative impacts, care, and pruning. Board members also wondered about a walk during the downtown Market on Main. Mollie reminded the board that not everyone uses technology and having a paper legend available (even just a listing of trees) will be useful and appreciated. The next meeting of the committee is May 19 at 12:30pm.

Board members discussed Market on Main dates and wondered about having a Forestry Board member present at every or every other week. Discussion will continue at the 5/19 education meeting.

UFMP Goals

Rob talked with the Board about what goals from the Urban Forestry Management Plan would the Board like to work on. This will be a topic at future board meetings.

Tree Climbing – Aerial Rescue Training

Forestry Board is interested in hosting the event and is wondering about having ISA RMC Sponsor. Kamie Long shared that the ISA has a special accommodation form for the Arborist Certification, so that folks with learning disabilities, can request accommodations (extra time, to have a reader, etc).

Forestry Updates

Rob advised the board that staff planted replacement trees on Riverside Parkway from 5th street to Broadway. On May 3rd they had an Arbor Day planting with 4th graders about 70 kids participated. Staff also removed a box elder from the east side of the playground which the kids also watch. Turns out they had named that tree "Billy the Box Elder" so they were sad he was being removed. All the new trees got named. Oaklee, Cucumber, Billy Junior, and so forth. On May 11, the Canyon View planting with the Excel Foundation will begin at 8am. Staff have also planted 80 street trees, with 10 or so homeowner requests remaining which will have to wait until fall. Most are replacements for ash trees which have been removed.

Staff are waiting anxiously for ash trees to leaf out enough for treatments. As a reminder, Black dot is removal list, green dot was treated with bark spray in 2021, blue dot was treated with a bark spray in 2022. Metal tagged trees were treated with a trunk injection. Staff are adding smaller trees, 13" and up. Staff will treat about 400 trees per season (three year rotation). Plant Health Care staff are testing different concentrations. We have used 6 packets, Rainbow recommends 8 (and is testing 12 at the Police Station). 20 packets is \$400 so, 12 packets per tree really causes you to examine the cost benefit question. Jamie Boda is also treating all the turf at canyon view for Japanese beetle on a small ride on spreader.

Now that Arbor Day is over, Rob reminded the board of the importance of reviewing the Code in 8.32.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:20 am

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little, Administrative Specialist