



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*March 9, 2023*

**Meeting called to Order** by Kamie Long, at 8:33 AM.

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Joseph Chandler  
Bill Cooper  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Brandon Kanwishcer  
Dan Komlo  
Kamie Long  
Vince Urbina  
Chuck McDaniel

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space  
Lance Gloss, Planning and Community Development  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist  
Tanya Marchun, Sr. Administrative Assistant, Marketing

**Called to order by Kamie Long at 8:35am.**

### **Approve Minutes**

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, noting that the minutes approved at that meeting were from the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously.

**Public Comment - NONE**

### **New Business – Urban Forestry Management Plan**

Lance talked with the board about the status of the plan. He is looking for a draft review with the Forestry board, getting some public review, and working through a review with city council at the upcoming meeting. The board applauded Lance's work on this plan, the depth and breadth of the work he has done putting it together and creating an accessible and informative product for adoption by Council.

Lance went through a quick overview of the plan (in advance of the Board's review of a hard copy). If the board has more comments after they review the copy it would be best to get those to Lance in the next week.

Board members appreciated Lance's work putting the plan together, distilling all the information, and wondered if copies could be available at Arbor Day. Mollie noted that communication with folks who are not interested in going online continues to be a struggle, though good efforts have been made. Vince noted that funding data is captured as a part of Tree City USA awards, which Grand Junction has received for 40 years.

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion that the board recommend adoption of the urban forestry management plan by City Council. The motion was seconded by Joseph Chandler and carried unanimously.

### **Marketing/Outreach**

Tanya Marchun, the Parks and Recreation Sr. Admin Assistant who focuses on marketing, talked with the board. This week 5,000 postcards about the private Ash Treatment program were mailed out targeting older neighborhoods where ash trees were likely installed with construction. An additional 5,000 will be mailed at the end of the month. The postcard also has some information about Southwest ArborFest as well. The treatment registration form is open. Mailing 10,000 postcards is \$3000. Printing them was about \$2000. Hopefully these postcards will also create some word-of-mouth publication. Unfortunately, digital communication with the schools – flyers to each student – is really cost prohibitive.

Board members are interested in working with Tanya on further outreach around watering, and tree care information. The Board will create a subcommittee to concentrate on marketing and outreach. The Forestry Board and other City entities can have a booth at Farmer's market for free. The Master Gardeners are willing to help staff the booth and have other Parks and Recreation staff highlight other programs, or even have other City entities take a week. Tanya is also working on a green colored tshirt with the Root for your Trees logo for wearing at Arbor Day.

### **Arbor Day**

Rob shared the draft of the Arbor Day Agenda with the board. General Set Up will be from 7-9am on April 22. Similar to last year, the City will provide both seedling delivery and pick up at Arbor Day. The form will be open on April 11. GIS will assist with creating routes, and deliveries will take place on April 19 and 20. Route creation (coordinating the trees with the routes created by GIS) will begin at 9am on Wednesday and deliveries will begin at Noon that same day, carried over to Thursday as necessary.

For the container tree silent auction, staff will build a planting box and bring soil. The Forestry Board will manage the planting demo. Arborists will man the seedling handouts.

Vince reminded the board that the Western Slope Emerging Pests begins March 29 at Noon. CEU forms are available and discussion will likely center around Japanese Beetle. It is at the Extension office and will always be the last Wednesday of the month. Vince has also set up a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification the last week of September. Board members are also wondering about building the Tree Worker Climber certification classes on the western slope. To qualify, participants must have passed

the written examination passed first and then you get signed off on skills. Other arborists have asked for an aerial rescue training.

Demo Day is March 18 from 10 – 1. Kamie and Brandon will attend on behalf of the board.

Rob talked with the board about Licensed tree care companies using temporary staff for labor. The temporary staff should not be pruning, cutting, removing. The licensee argues that the temp agency has work comp for their employees, but by code, per the City Attorney's Office, they should not engage in the aspects of the business that are licensed. Board members have deep reservations about temp workers participating in rigging, pruning, and other skills-based activities. There is a reason that Arbor activities are one of the most dangerous professions in the world. Holding the rope end of a limb that is coming out of a tree is the same as participating in the pruning activity in the tree.

Mollie made a motion that the board consider rigging part of tree work which must be performed by a licensed worker, or employees of a licensed tree company and should not be performed by temporary workers or contracted labor. The motion was seconded by Bill Cooper and carried unanimously.

Rob showed board members the digital version of Kody's logo. Rob will connect Kody and Tanya for further refinement of the digital logo, and font.

The hydroton beds (formally know as aquaponic beds) are in need of repair. Some the cottonwoods that were in the beds last year damaged some of the pipes.

Kamie reminded the board that they were sent an email about the Colorado Intermountain Urban Forestry Council whose first meeting is on April 7 from 9 – 11am.

Rob updated the board on the status of Forestry work. Removals are up 800 inches over last year, there are 48 removals pending mostly due to required traffic control. There are 132 stumps pending. Staff are shifing gears towards spring plantings.

Rob talked with the board about fire mitigation crews working along the river. Similar to last fall, a crew, managed by the GJFD would like to do some specific work that would fall outside the work of a regular Tree Care license. Kamie Long made a motion to approve a temporary permit for tree work for the purpose of fire mitigation, including trees 8" and less in diameter, managed by the GJFD. The motion was seconded by Brandon K and carried unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:47 am

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting** - Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 8:30 AM. Kamie has a conflict so the vice chair will lead the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist