



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

May 5, 2022 - In Person and held digitally

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bennett Boeschstein
Susan Carter
Bill Cooper
Mollie Higginbotham
Dan Komlo
Vince Urbina

Absent Board Members: Kamie Long

Guests Present: Sandra Nunez Currier, Community Engagement
Coordinator
Tanya Marchun, Sr. Administrative Assistant - Marketing

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Randy Coleman, Parks Superintendent
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Approve Minutes

Vince Urbina moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Bennett Boeschstein and carried unanimously.

Introductions

Rob is unable to be here today so, Randy Coleman is sitting in on the meeting. Randy introduced Tanya Marchun the Parks and Recreation Department's ne Senior Administrative Assistant for Marketing. Also joining the meeting today is Sandra Nunez Currier the City's Community Engagement Coordinator. Her job is to help engage and connect citizens with the City of Grand Junction.

Forestry Updates

Recap on Arbor Day

Susan Carter recapped the Arbor Day activities, there was a lot of traffic around all the forestry activities. People seemed to enjoy the Urban wood Auction and were impressed by the variety available at the seedling give away. The plant sale and container tree auction seemed to be successful as well. Some water and lunch for the volunteers would be a good addition to next year.

Outreach

Board members welcomed Tanya to Parks and Recreation. As she gets settled in they are hoping to have her help with getting the Grand Valley Canopy website connected to the City website. They would also like to continue adding resources (such as proper watering guides) to the website and outreach to groups like the New Comers.

Tree Planting

Staff has identified 180 locations for planting so far, including 40 street trees. There are a total of 284 trees to plant plus an additional 100 aquaponic trees. Rotary has scheduled a tree planting in Las Colonias Park for 50 b&b trees, and staff has a plan to replace trees along Riverside Parkway which were removed due to pest damage. Additionally, Kyle Coltrinari was awarded a \$5000 grant to fund planting cottonwoods along the River Park area in Las Colonias to provide more shade. The Riverside Parkway planting is problematic since there is only one lane of travel on each side and planting would require detouring traffic. Staff may adjust the timing of that planting.

New Business

Development Code Update

Susan Carter shared that there have been additional changes to the Development code proposal. Changes have been made to terminology to be in line with industry standards, requirement for weed fabric have been removed (and a requirement to keep it eight feet away from trees if it is used). Board members reiterated a desire for the code to address maintenance requirements and even potentially calling for over-installation of irrigation to anticipate increased water needs as landscapes mature. It seems a gap in review exists since there is no longer a parks staff member dedicated to plan review.

New Pest

Susan Carter shared with the Board new pests that have been identified in western Colorado. As mentioned last month, the American Plum Borer was identified out in Palisade. Since then this pest has been trapped in locations all over the valley. This pest likes sun damage and makes its home on the south facing side of trees such as apples, cherries, and plums.

The ips beetle has been found in Austrian pines and is killing them from the top down. The particular tree was drought stressed, so it is unclear how much that stress contributed to the beetle's ability to kill the tree.

Additionally, the Yucca moth has been found in all the Yucca baccata at the extension office and is killing them. Extension staff continues to work on treatment options. Imidacloprid is ineffective because they are lepidoptera.

A pinon infected with canker has been found. Extension staff are still waiting on a diagnosis from the CSU lab.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is considering dropping the quarantine for the Japanese beetle. This could be devastating for our area as the beetle primarily attacks peaches and grapes. The CSU Extension office is working to get education out to land owners and is trying to gather stake holders to give input to the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Currently, none of the states to the west of Colorado will accept plant material if it has Japanese Beetle.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:36 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist