



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

April 6, 2023

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Kamie Long

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

Meeting called to order by Vince Urbina at 8:30 am.

Approve Minutes

Dan Komlo made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Cooper and carried unanimously.

Public Comment - NONE

New Business – Urban Forestry Management Plan

Council held a workshop on Monday reviewing the plan. It was generally well received. Rob reminded the board that the system we have depends on requests for service. A more comprehensive model would be to maintain each area of town on a schedule, working through all public trees on a rotation. (Which is a goal of the plan.) This is a plan with strategies for future and does not carry with it any specific budget requests. The plan is up for adoption at the next council meeting on April 19.

Forestry Board Education Subcommittee

Meeting April 14 at 12:30 in the Park Operations Conference Room

Arbor Day

Rob shared that seedlings are set up for delivery in the next week. Staff are working on updating the form which will open up on April 11. In the past only species names, not descriptions, have been listed.

Rob would like to consider adding a little more information to help folks make more informed choices. Deliveries are scheduled for 4/19 and 4/20. Mollie can organize but not deliver. Dan, Joe, and Brandon can help deliver. Bill can help more on the 20th. Vince can help tag on 4/18.

The Arbor Day Proclamation will also be made at the 4/19 City Council meeting.

Schedule of Events for Arbor Day:

Set up 7 – 9am

Arbor Day Events 9am – 2pm

Feedback from last year:

Organize day of seedlings with a color code or a tag so it's easier to see what's what.

Tree Auction – planting demo before take away tree, shorten actual auction time to 45 minutes, still start on the hour, so that there is a gap for the planting demo, payments, and set up of next round.

Food for volunteers – pizza got cold, but a coupon to the food truck might work well.

Minimum price on silent auction - \$30

Placement of each of the booths felt good and will remain for 2023

Rob asked the board to help create seedling “menu” for people to browse and #7 action tree descriptions.

Forestry Updates

Rob reminded the board that Friday is the first Colorado Intermountain Urban Forestry Council meeting from 9 – 11am.

Rob is participating in a PlanIt Geo webinar/CIUFC meeting with panelists from around the country and internationally.

The Pomona School Arbor Day planting will be set up in a strip of grass that is already irrigated, but lacks shade.

Xcel Foundation Grant planting will be located at Canyon View. Trees will be planted around the perimeter of sports fields to help provide shade for spectators.

Staff have finished all removals and are working on stumps and preparing for planting of street trees and Riverside Parkway. Staff are aiming to get all the trees planted mid-April to mid-May.

Staff are also working on repairing the hydroton beds, replacing the liners and repairing some of the piping as well as prepping posts and signs for new trees in the Lincoln Park Arboretum.

Board members wondered if any action was being taken in response to the poor tree work on Horizon Drive at the Clarion. Rob has reached out to the Horizon Drive Business District Executive Director who is also unhappy with the work and the look. The hotel staff were not the most cooperative and Rob was able to leave a card but got no information about who did the work.

The ultimate goal would be to have the hotel get a licensed company to take the trees down so that the eyesore is gone. HDBID would be interested in replanting the trees if the hotel is not. Currently, there are not any enforcement avenues available to address this work after the fact in the current zoning/development codes.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:20 am

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist