



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

September 1, 2023

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper
Mollie Higginbotham
Brandon Kanwischer
Kamie Long
Vince Urbina

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler
Dan Komlo

Public Present:

Mollie Freilicher, Colorado State University Extension

City Staff Present:

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

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:35 am.

Approve Minutes

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

Public Comment

Introduction of Mollie Freilicher, Colorado State University Extension (Tri-River).

New Business

Educational Committee

Large crowd visited the Farmers Market booth on August 31st. Interest in All Star Tree List, planting guides, ash tree pamphlets, and licensed tree care providers list. New floor stand banner helpful in identifying Board. Master Gardner, Shannon assisted with booth staffing. Mollie suggested horticulture staff conduct tours of flowers in the downtown corridor. Stickers and carbineers were popular schwag items.

Kamie spoke with a real estate agent who stated numerous new homeowners inquire about plant/tree identification. Tanya would appreciate a shorter, 150-word text version for the brochure in addition to a longer version. Farmers Market review will be conducted in October.

Next subcommittee meeting scheduled for September 25, 2023, 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

City of Grand Junction – Forestry Webpage

Review of current webpages and forestry links. There is a need to review links and determine if any information needs to be updated.

Community Tree Plantings

No new interest in planting events. Kamie suggested discussing community tree plantings during an Education Subcommittee meeting.

Forestry Updates

Zoning Code

A code review committee has been seated by the city. Rob suggested that considerations by the code committee be brought in front of the Forestry Board. Niki Galehouse is the Planning Department Supervisor. Question posed if Board should attend a code review committee meeting(s). Rob offered the Grand Junction Municipal Code verbiage does not allow for significant tree classification as designated in the suitable plant list. Tamra Allen, Community Development Director, suggested tree protection concerns communicated by the public might increase awareness within the city government. Topic of drafting a letter by the Board to send to Daily Sentinel Editor outlining tree protection suggested. Rob advised the Board they can schedule a public meeting. Should a meeting be scheduled, the inclusion of City Council would be key. Rob will contact the Planning Department to inquire how the Board can be engaged in the code development process. Brandon offered Alpine Tree Service will be hiring a student intern from CMU that might be available to review city canopy data.

Southwest Arbor Fest

Rob advised the Board he attended a meeting with Tanya Marhcum and Tricia Rothwell. Tanya and Tricia discussed merging the Arbor Day activities with Southwest Fest activities and schedule. Board would prefer to keep separation between the two events. During the meeting, Rob communicated that he felt the last two years ran well. Southwest Arbor Fest 2024 scheduled for April 20, 2024. The Board recommends keeping the start time the same as in years past. Forestry Board feels the seedling delivery program is important and would recommend continuing deliveries.

Aerial Rescue Training

Nick Close will make himself available for training in Grand Junction on November 8, 2023. Nick feels 10 to 15 attendees is a good number of students. Training will be free of charge and will likely take half the day.

Adjourn

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting – October 5, 2023, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support