



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

October 5, 2023

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Joseph Chandler
Mollie Higginbotham
Brandon Kanwischer
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long

Board Members Absent:

Bill Cooper
Vince Urbina

Public Present:

Orin Zyvan

City Council Liaison:

Cody Kennedy

City Staff Present:

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

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

Approve Minutes

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to approve the minutes from September. The motion was seconded by Brandon Kanwischer and carried unanimously with spelling correction.

Public Comment

Oren Zyvan introduction and statement of desire to educate the public on proper tree watering techniques. Board's trifold brochure and education programs discussed. Educational Sub Committee meeting open to public, and Mr. Zyvan invited to attend.

New Business

Zoning Code Updates/Revisions Discussion

Niki Galehouse, Planning Supervisor, discussed proposed zoning and development code updates. Mention that Municipal Code Committee seated by City Council tasked with reviewing and updating municipal code. The section of and applicability of the significant tree section of the municipal code has been examined. Niki provided examples of current code and proposed verbiage. Additional verbiage has been added while nothing removed. Code Committee did request clarification on "location"

stipulation of significant tree section. Watering and irrigation requirement has not changed and remains included. A tree with a minimum 15-inch diameter, in good health, and pest/disease free is eligible for significant tree status unless excluded in the suitable plants list. The city is looking at offering incentives to developers who preserve trees. The requirement to protect trees during construction still a requirement. The Board inquired if there is any support, they can offer the Planning Department.

Forestry Updates

Tree Metrics Review

Review of tree maintenance work orders completed in 2021, 2022, and 2023. 2021 -- 399 trees trimmed; 380 trees removed; 310 trees planted. 2022 – 306 trees trimmed; 266 trees removed; 308 trees planted. 2023 – 355 trees trimmed; 296 trees removed; 361 trees planted. Root for Your Ash program status review through October 2, 2023. 437 treatment requests received with 525 ash trees treated.

Christmas Light Install

Forestry crews will begin the installation of lights on October 16th. All forestry staff will dedicate three weeks to the program.

Get to Know Your City Event

An event is scheduled for October 17, 2023, at Whitman Park. The Communications Department is hopeful Board members might staff a booth at the event. Kami, Brandon, and Joseph offered to staff the booth.

Educational Sub Committee

Tanya Marchum will begin condensing verbiage submitted by Board for the trifold brochure. The title being considered for the brochure is “Residential Landscape 101”.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The city is hosting a volunteer appreciation dinner at the Two Rivers Convention Center on 12/11/2023.

Miscellaneous

Aerial rescue training scheduled for November 8, 2023. Ten to fifteen attendees ideal.

Rob continues to work with Jamie Beard on municipal code revisions. Once the code nears a good point, information will be brought before the Board.

Adjourn

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting – November 2, 2023, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support