



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*November 2, 2023*

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Joseph Chandler  
Bill Cooper  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Brandon Kanwischer  
Dan Komlo

Board Members Absent:

Kamie Long  
Vince Urbina

City Council Liaison:

Cody Kennedy

City Staff Present:

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

**Meeting called to order by Mollie Higginbotham at 8:40 am.**

### **Approve Minutes**

Joe Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes from October. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo.

### **New Business**

Fifty people to attend the Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference. Numerous companies coming in for aerial rescue training. Review of [gjc.org/forestry](http://gjc.org/forestry) landing page. Root for Your Ash program reviewed. Rob recommends sending an email to 2022 program participants stating their properties are eligible for treatments again in 2024. The current insect/disease Ash tree fact sheet is being reworked by Kamie and Brandon. The Grand Junction approved street tree list was based mostly on species included in the Denver Street Tree List. Suggestion made to include information on what trees are successful in the area as well as the All-Star Tree List. Tree/shrub guide might be a candidate for removal from the city website. Recommendation to view other city's municipal websites to gain formatting/content suggestions. Suggestion to invite a representative from the city's communications department to a future Board meeting.

### **Forestry Updates**

#### **Christmas Light Install**

Forestry crews are nearing the completion of holiday light installations. Crews have been able to complete installation at a higher pace this season. Trees on Colorado Avenue are currently being installed.

## **New Plantings**

Crews have transitioned to new tree plantings. Numerous bareroot plantings are being completed at Beehive Park. Thirty-seven new trees are scheduled for installation. Water for the trees will be provided by irrigation water. Thus far, comments from park neighbors have been positive. Area residents seem to have a vested interest in the park and appear to welcome the plantings. Wingate Park is another area that has been identified for new plantings. Areas along the walking path have specifically been identified for installations. Funds from an Xcel Energy grant have been earmarked to fund plantings at Emerson Park. A tree spade has been secured to relocate 21 trees in the park. Construction at the park is likely to begin early in 2024. A tree protection boundary will be put in place during construction. Suitable planting space is the driving factor when identifying areas to plant. Brian Wrich has identified Pear Park Elementary school as an area for plantings. New plantings at Sherwood Park appear to have around an 80% success rate. There is an opportunity for the city to complete more new planting inspections. Currently, there is not a lot of focus placed on newly planted trees. Older trees that may pose a safety risk demand most of the focus. Having a small arborist crew that focuses on new plantings, watering, and pruning would be ideal. Being able to complete young tree structural pruning would likely reduce the need for more costly large tree pruning. The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) grant totaled \$2000 and the Xcel Energy grant \$5000.

## **Fire Mitigation**

Twenty-two-acre parcel (Railroad Island) located near Riverside Parkway/US Hwy 50 completed. Work completed using masticators staying away from larger trees. Prescription cancelled to differentiate between mitigation and licensed tree care. Broadway over the Colorado River is another area being considered for vegetation management. After management completed, the area might be a candidate for the introduction of goats.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Adjourn**

**Next Forestry Sub Committee Meeting** – November 16, 2023, 9:30 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting** – December 7, 2023, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Martinez, Administrative Support