



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*December 7, 2023*

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Kamie Long  
Bill Cooper  
Mollie Higginbotham  
Brandon Kanwischer  
Dan Komlo

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler

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 Kamie Long at 8:30 am.**

### **Approve Minutes**

Bill Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes from November. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham with addendum to correct spelling error.

### **Vince Urbina**

Parks and Recreation Department selected Vince as the “2023 Community Champion”. A plaque will be presented to Vince’s family. Kerry Graves inquired if Gail would be interested in attending this year’s volunteer dinner. A tree located at Hawthorne Park was planted earlier recognizing Vince as 2017 Arborist of the Year. Randy Coleman suggested planting a grove of trees at Hawthorne Park with the idea of reaching out to various entities and inquiring if they would like to contribute to the grove. The thought being including various entities would demonstrate the outreach Vince had. Kamie suggested Vince might appreciate a teaching or learning area. Suggestion made to rename a component of the Lincoln Park Arboretum in Vince’s honor. Suggestion made to place a memorial bench at Kindred Reserve, which would provide a quiet atmosphere. Matchett Park would be an ideal place for a type of memorial. Including an event recognizing Vince during Arbor Day celebrations would be another ideal opportunity to commemorate Vince’s contributions. Organizations and entities outside of the area could be invited to participate in a commemoration event. Kamie will contact Gail to inquire if the family would like to be involved in the planning of a memorial(s). The Board suggested moving forward possibly at the beginning of the year with filling Vince’s seat on the Board and selecting a new Vice President.

## **City Turf Removal Program**

Flier produced by the City of Colorado Springs to serve as base with customization to Grand Junction needs.

## **Forestry Updates**

### **Main Street Arboretum**

Installation of markers is a slow process. Markers are being riveted onto bases. Welded marker holders are being fabricated for use in raised beds. Suggestion to add some concrete to the beds to anchor the markers. Vendor suggested sign boards would take eight to ten weeks to complete. Three signs will be installed along Main Street. One sign near the end of the 200 block, second at N 5<sup>th</sup> St planter, third in 700 block. Suggestion made to consider adding store names to the online map to aid in location identification. Signs are 2 ft by 3 ft. Tour is interactive and phone driven and accessible using a QR code. Cody Kennedy feels Visit GJ and DDA would be good advocates for the promotion of the arboretum. Suggestion to add a QR code to each base.

### **Emerson Skate Park**

A 36" tree spade was purchased by the city. The spade is a Bobcat attachment. Crews attempted to use the attachment and the skid plate broke off. Bobcat of the Rockies was able to order a replacement part and their mechanic was able to replace the part. Additional diagonal parking spaces will be added along S 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Tree Removals**

250 have been identified as removal eligible. Removals have begun and will continue through March. Most trees scheduled are ash.

### **Tree Service License Renewals**

Jason will assist in contacting tree service companies with information on 2024 renewals.

### **Tree City USA**

Application submitted to state representative. DDA has requested Tree City USA signs get placed downtown.

## **Adjourn**

**Next Forestry Sub Committee Meeting** – December 13, 2023, 8:30 AM.

**Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting** – January 4, 2024, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support