



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

January 4, 2024

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper
Joseph Chandler
Mollie Higginbotham
Brandon Kanwischer
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long

Board Members Absent:

City Council Liaison:

Cody Kennedy

City Staff Present:

Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney
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

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to approve the minutes from December. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo with addendum to correct spelling of Gail Urbina's first name and update roll call.

Vince Urbina

Email sent by Kamie outlining memorial information. Kamie was able to obtain books owned by Vince. Ken Sherbenou had concerns about space for a memorial tree at Matchett Park. Begin considering verbiage to be included on Lincoln Park Arboretum marker. Recommendations include highlighting the years Vince hosted tours, "In gratitude...", and/or profiling Vince's love of trees (e.g., tree educator, tree advocate). The wishing tree at Lincoln Park may be an ideal place for the marker. Suggestion of adding a component at the arboretum that would allow people to locate Vince's favorite tree. Vince's family has given approval to proceed with recognizing Vince during Arbor Day events.

Chair/Vice Chair

Nominations for Board Chair.

- Bill Cooper
- Kamie Long

Nominations for Vice Chair.

- Bill Cooper
- Brandon Kanwischer

Rob Davis will send an email to members with the opportunity to vote. Rob has inquired about filling Vince's seat on the Board.

Forestry Updates

Fire Mitigation

Rob has been in discussion with City Attorney's Office to update the code as it pertains to allowing non licensed tree services to perform tree mitigation work. An added component would be to allow developers to scrape trees from sites. Verbiage in the code would allow the City Forester to issue a permit to non-licensed entities that would perform fire mitigation work or developers clearing a site.

Municipal Code

Presentation by Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney, outlining revisions being considered to Chapter 8 of the municipal code. Ordinance requires 1st reading. Proposed language for the code is submitted to City Council for review and set for Public Hearing. Normally no presentation is required. On occasion, Council asks questions and staff provides responses. There is not a need for Board members to appear. The ordinance will require a 2nd reading with Public Hearing. City staff will present with assistance of relevant experts. Relevant experts may include Board members. Board members being present to show support is a good thing.

Preferred Additional Steps

Preferred steps to be taken at a Forestry Board meeting. Board should review, discuss and vote on language to be presented to City Council for adoption. It would be preferred that all Board members be present for the vote, however as many as possible is recommended. Meeting minutes taken during a Board meeting may be included as part of the agenda package/presentation for the 2nd reading. If there has not been a meeting with a vote it may get directed to the Board for consideration and recommendation before getting on the City Council calendar.

Workshops

It would be preferred that the ordinance be brought before a City Council workshop. Workshops are conducted the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Discussions occur only with city staff and who City Council/staff have invited to speak. Workshops are less formal, and no formal action/decision will be made during workshops. Workshops work better when reviewing less controversial matters. Workshops allow more time for review and more feedback may be received. Helpful if Board members are present for discussion and questions. At minimum, highlights will be presented to Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for direction on workshop and calendaring.

Enforcement

Administrative Citations

Enforcement of the code may include an administrative citation. Administrative citations are a civil violation. Code enforcement officer issues a written notice to correct matter with a fine. 1st notice \$150.00 (reduced to \$50.00 if corrected by reinspection). 2nd notice \$200.00 (reduced to \$100.00 or \$150.00 if corrected by reinspection). 3rd notice \$300.00 (reduced to \$200.00 or \$250.00). Amounts can be modified up to \$1000.00 in accordance with the municipal code. Additional issues after the 3rd notice with the same person/entity will be referred to the Municipal Court. An appeal may be filed if done in accordance with the Municipal Code and heard by a hearing officer. Normally heard by a Municipal Court Judge or a hearing officer (Liquor Licenses or Cannabis Licenses).

City Forester Appeals

Appeals may be made to the City Forester. Process and requirements may be appealed to the Forester. In addition, permits approved or denied may be appealed. Civil violation decisions may also be appealed to the Forester.

Criminal/Civil Citations to Municipal Court

Citation issued with a penalty assessment for civil matter. Maximum \$1000.00 penalty may be set in the Code or left to the discretion of the Court (Could be adjusted to \$2650.00 but will take an ordinance). Person receiving citation may have a trial before a Municipal Court Judge. Misdemeanor for criminal matter possibilities include up to 364 days in jail and up to \$1000.00 fine (Could be adjusted to \$2650.00 but will take an ordinance). All rights available to a person charged with a crime.

Adjourn

Next Forestry Sub Committee Meeting – January 11, 2024, 8:30 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting – February 1, 2024, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support