



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

August 1, 2024

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Scott Beilfuss
Joseph Chandler
Mollie Freilicher
Mollie Higginbotham
Brandon Kanwischer
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long

Board Members Absent:

Bill Cooper

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Allison Little Administrative Specialist

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:30AM. Kamie is attending virtually and asked Brandon Kanwischer to chair the meeting.

Approval of the July Minutes

Joseph Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes, with the noted typos addressed, of the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and accepted by acclamation.

Public Comments - None

New Business

Farmer's Market Updates

Joseph Chandler talked with the board about the last Farmer's Market. The traffic was a little slower than previous weeks, but still had good conversations. Brandon reminded the board that there is a counter in the box of supplies to help keep track of how many visitors are stopping by the table. People were most interested in the licensed tree care services list. Mollie Freilicher reminded folks that handing out the ISA "How to hire an Arborist" fact sheet can help people make the best choices about hiring licensed tree care services. Kamie shared that Sarah Kennedy was going to create a map of the grant request target area so that we could already have a sign up sheet of people who live in the area who would be interested in participating which helps build resident interest.

Inflation Reduction Act Funding Grant Request Update

Rob updated the board on the Grant application. Staff have made a \$250,000 application, for this unique zero-match grant. Staff have set up the program with an intern who heads up an outreach program, monitors the contracted services, leads paid tree stewards, and monitors health and soil moisture of new trees in the project area. The grant will also pay for trees to plant, contracted services to install the trees, and improvements on private property (irrigation). Grant decisions will be made September 1. Councilor Beilfuss asked if only owner-occupied homes were eligible. Rob shared that

participation requires property owner buy-in and permission, but rental occupied properties could still qualify.

Arbor Day Seedling Delivery Survey

Kamie shared a draft survey. Board members provided feedback on the survey, including suggestions that folks should be able to select all years that apply, catching a typo, requiring an answer to the question about the future of the program, and adding a photo upload option. Board members also suggested including an email address (forestry@gjcity.org) where people can reach out or share information directly.

Scheduling Subcommittee Meetings

Chapter 8: August 14 at 1:30 – 2:30pm

Forestry Updates

Rob shared that staff continue to focus on pruning and are collecting work areas that require professional traffic control for work to be safely performed such as, Pitkin, Grand Ave, and 7th Street, are going to be of major focus to complete before Christmas Light installation.

Staff are targeting Juniper and American elms (17" and larger) with mectinite to combat the Cedar Bark Beetle (in the juniper). The elms have grown resistant to treatment of scale with neonicotinoids, so staff are testing mectinite to combat that scale.

Board members wondered if staff has any say in what is planted in construction/right of way projects. They complimented the species that were used in the 24 Rd interchange. Staff did review the plans and make suggestions. Rob shared that he is also reviewing the landscape plans submitted for the new Community Recreation Center, to increase diversity and include more shade trees rather than only ornamental varieties.

Rob also shared that the City Manager designated contingency funds to hire contracted services to actively maintain/remove ash trees. The bid was out and T4 Savatree won the project.

Items for Code Discussion

Rob talked with the board about what qualifiers that the Forestry Board would use to approve a work permit for an unlicensed entity to remove trees for fire mitigation. Board members discussed allowing State, County, and Federal organizations and conservation corps groups. Limiting the size of the removals to 8" or less without approved credential noting that tamarisk is to be viewed as a shrub. Board members discussed restrictions based on proximity to neighboring properties and utilities, and if this exception should be limited to public land. Board members would like to require proof of insurance, scope of work information with aerial photos of work area, and the plan for follow up herbicide treatment including providing planned product and verified state licensed applicator information. Board members discussed how to ensure safety standards are being met as well as wildlife restrictions and protections are being followed.

Adjourn by acclamation at 10:05 am.

Next Meeting – September 5, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist