



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

September 5, 2024

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Jamie Beard, City Attorney (actual title)
Allison Little Administrative Specialist

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

Approval of the August Minutes

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Brandon Kanwischer and carried unanimously.

Public Comments - None

Board members discussed the licensing requirements of having a certified Arborist on staff. The intent of the requirement is that the certified arborist is a full-time employee assessing tree work on site. Bill Cooper moved to allow McKay tree service 45 days (+15) to take the ISA test up to two times in order to meet the intent of the licensing requirement to have an ISA Certified arborist working 40 hours per week. The motion was seconded by Brandon Kanwischer and carried unanimously.

New Business

Chapter 8 Review

Jamie Beard talked with the board about the Chapter 8 Code Review. She has prepared a draft of all the changes the board has made so far, which is ready for review by the Board members.

Continuing discussions 8.32.140

License requirements, including certification requirements and definition of full-time work, Board members recognize the seasonal nature of tree work, and that sometimes single-owner businesses are actually side gigs and the company doesn't do tree work in a "full time" capacity. Jamie will look for other instances to see if there is a clearer way to capture the intent.

The board talked about frequent in-person oversight and frequent contact with field crews. Board members wondered if the code define the presence of the arborist as the person who creates, and describes the scope of work and provides oversight of the crew on the job.

The board scheduled a subcommittee meeting to work on the code updates before the next regular Forestry Board Meeting.

Farmer's Market Updates

Board members talked about sharing booth space with other entities. Board members want to be sure that the Forestry Board still has a strong presence in the Farmer's market and are not overshadowed by guests sharing the booth space. Future placement of guest materials will be determined before additional entities are invited to join the booth.

IRA Grant

Grant funding was approved at \$200,000. We were the 3rd highest grant award. Staff will begin a strategy of how people will be signed up and work completed before hard noticing of the award will begin so that there is a clear process for connecting people to the grant. Board members wondered if there needed to be a subcommittee created to help manage until the intern comes on in spring of 2025.

Rob advised the board that there will be a meeting about the Heat Island results on September 9 at Park Operations.

The board reviewed the Tree Seedling Survey questions and feel ready to send it out now so that results can be collected in advance of placing an order for next year's seedlings.

Forestry Updates

Staff are completing tree work on 7th Street. For safety, the street is being closed (in sections). Staff will start on the north end of the southbound lanes and work their way south. Once the crew reaches Grand Avenue they will work their way north on the northbound side of the street. Significant pruning needs have been delayed due to the need to close the street. This work should be a significant improvement for the health of the trees.

Adjourn by acclamation at 10:30 am.

Next Meeting – October 3, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist