



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

November 7, 2024

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Bill Cooper

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney
Sarah Kennedy, Communications Specialist
Allison Little Administrative Specialist
Else Stone, Administrative support

Meeting called to order by Brandon Kanwischer at 8:32AM.

Approval of the October Minutes

Dan Komlo made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting, noting the deletion of a typo on page 2. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and were accepted by acclamation.

Public Comments – None

New Business

Board Appreciation Invite

Rob reminded the board to respond to the Board Appreciation event invite.

Chapter 8 Update

Jamie talked with the board about changes to chapter 8. She has presented a draft copy for the board to review.

The board discussed some small changes to the previously provided draft including alley trees and ensuring that the abutting property owner will be responsible for trimming, mitigation, maintenance of trees and other vegetation in the ROW, and other owner responsibilities for ROW trees.

Jamie updated the board on the changes made to the insurance requirements section based on discussions at the October meeting. Language has been included which is an increase in the

requirements based on the current code and also the same as what the vast majority of the current licensed companies are already carrying. Regarding Workers Compensation, currently the draft language indicates that beginning February 2026 no license shall be issued without a Worker's Certificate (waivers no longer allowed). The draft code states that licenses are void if current insurance is not on file. This means that renewals completed before February 1, 2026 will be allowed a waiver. The board decided to shorten the time to February 1, 2025. Additionally, the draft code requires the person who holds the ISA certification to provide on-site supervision, direct and approve the scope of work, and must be readily accessible to be available on site upon request by a crew member or the City. Readily accessible means available on-site within one hour.

Rob talked with the board about tree protection standards and where restitution should be codified.

Jamie reminded the board to take the time to read the provided draft carefully, noting that in December the board will finalize what will be presented to Council for adoption.

Review of Licensed Contractor Timming at 648 26 Rd

Rob shared with the board pictures of trimming of 6 trees that took place on 26 road. It is often impossible to follow up on substandard pruning jobs. Because a traffic closure was required for this job, the company has been identified as AJ& G. The trees were topped along the road, the work does not meet ANSI standards for pruning, and expressly goes against the prohibition of topping. The Board discussed the appropriate action for a violation of this nature. Topping creates aggressive sprouting which is not well connected to the trunk of the tree. These poor connections create dangerous limbs which will eventually hang over the road and could cause potential damage. Board members wondered if we could ask the company to fix their work to meet the ANSI standards. Rob will communicate the request to the company.

Kamie thanked Brandon and Mollie for their many years of service on the Board. We have appreciated their time on the Board.

Other items were tabled until the December meeting.

Adjourn by acclamation at 10:15 am.

Next Meeting – December 5, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist