



***Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes***

October 11, 2013

Parks Operations Building

2529 High Country Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, Kamie Long at 8:05 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Kamie Long
Shirley Nilsen
Richard Edwards
Charles Thompson
Teddy Hildebrandt

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Tom Ziola, Forestry Supervisor
Darcy Austin, Leisure Service Representative

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Charles Thompson moved to approve the September 6, 2013 Forestry Board Minutes. Richard Edwards seconded the motion to approve.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 3: Bruce Rahn – Reclassifying Elm Tree's

Bruce Rahn attended the meeting as a guest and has requested to have Elm's listed as an "invasive species" and be added to the Mesa County Noxious Weed list. Comments from the board stated that there are many huge and beautiful elms in the valley and should not be considered. Bruce is concerned about the seedling that is not being maintained.

Tom Ziola discussed doing a public outreach with Sam Ranguit regarding issues with Elm Tree's and Rich mentioned that there are a lot other evasive plants such as Siberian Elm and Tree of Heaven. Kami stated that we could address evasive plants in our ordinances and possibly hand out flyers regarding steps to take care of the problem. The properties that are in foreclosure wouldn't receive the notice and a lot of those homes are the problems. Bruce Rahn wanted to know which chemicals work best because Round-Up doesn't really seem to work. It was agreed that enforcement would be the hardest part but could look at changing ordinances to address this issue. After much discussion it was decided to educate the citizens on proper maintenance of the seedling of Siberian Elms that sprout up as volunteers all over the valley.

Item 4: Licensing

The Class C test has been revised, the climbing portion has been removed and the person and company have been added to the test. The new question asks how far off the ground can you be and the answer is that you can't be more than 15 feet off the ground. OSHA requirements state that if your feet leave the ground you are required to be tied in. Class C license will read "if elevation is not required". Shirley Nilsen asked if it was possible to make all questions multiple choices. Tom Ziola stated that there is some flexibility but the goal is to get people their licenses and not to hold them back. Kamie Long stated that right now you can pass at 60% is correct and it seems like it should be at least 70%.

A lot of companies have field hands who are under supervision of someone who is certified. Tom Ziola stated that we do offer a tree care workshop and give companies the opportunity to train the field hands. The field hands not being certified is a valid concern because private companies are pruning badly and this is a good reason to have an ordinance in place that promotes professionalism and competence. Rich Edwards stated that a lot of companies have good employees but they may not be able to pass a test but Teddy Hildebrandt stated that taking the test would make them more professional.

Shirley Nilsen suggested giving the companies some notice, possibly over the next year, so they have time to prepare for the new changes. Discuss by next year that every crew leader must pass this test and do practice training for an hour and then have them take the test the following day. Offer a class in the spring and another by July 1st. Tom Ziola stated we aren't trying to penalize anyone we are just trying to have more professionalism in the field.

All equipment must be identified by the company name, including stump grinders that are attached to the vehicle. Tom Ziola talked about liability insurance and the standardization of insurance, that it should be the same across the board. Teddy Hildebrandt stated it sounds like Workman's Compensation and Liability Insurance would be combined. If you have any employees you have to be covered by workman's comp as a safety for the employee and home owner.

Item 5: Ordinances

Tabled til next Forestry Board Meeting

Item 6: Yard of the Month

N/A

Item 7: New Business

The City received \$500 from the Grand Junction Rockies for the planting of trees at Lincoln Park.

Item 8: Adjourn

Richard Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Thompson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcy Austin