



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes - March 6, 2025

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Scott Beilfuss
Joseph Chandler
Bill Cooper
Mollie Freilicher
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Tanya Travis

Board Members Absent:

Earl Perry - absent

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Susan Carter, Water Conservationist
Sarah Kennedy, Communications Specialist
Allison Little Administrative Specialist

Guest Present

Rich Edwards

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:30AM.

Approval of the February Minutes

Joseph Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Mollie Freilicher and were accepted by acclamation.

Public Comments

New Business

Garden in a Box

Susan Carter talked with the Board about the Garden in a Box program (a front range company who wanted to expand west). All the water providers are involved in this effort and asked her to design a garden that would complement the turf replacement efforts as well. She has worked with parks staff to do a water conservation project at 910 Main including a demonstration of this Garden in the Box program. All the plants are grown in Colorado at a front range nursery. Participants receive a map of where to plant and how to take care of them. The designs cover 60 or 100 square ft of 4" plants (though there may be other sizes based on the box you choose). To order folks choose their water provider (which triggers the discount) then select the timeslot for picking up the garden (all on May 3). Once discounts run out, sales will continue until 2 weeks before or until the nursery stock runs out.

Turf Replacement

Susan Carter shared with the board that she has \$15,000 left in her budget for facilitating turf replacement. About \$5,000 is tied to active applications. Susan is also working with Chipeta Elementary on their turf replacement. She has submitted a grant application for more funding to facilitate turf replacement funding for larger (commercial, industrial, and institutional) areas of turf.

Susan Carter advised the board that CMU is in design mode for a gray water system for their campus. It would be the first non-residential subsurface gray water irrigation system in the state. This is cutting edge and an immense opportunity for study and growth in sustainability efforts.

City Council Meeting – April 16

Rob Davis advised the board of his request to be on the City Council Agenda on April 16 for an Arbor Day proclamation, and to recognize Vince Urbina posthumously for a CTC Lifetime Achievement Award. The Forestry Board is invited, and it is important to have a good showing.

Rob talked with the board about the Arbor Day Program on April 23 at Chipeta Elementary for all the 4th and 5th grade students (100 kids). Tanya Travis and Mollie Freilicher are willing to help. There will be a strong focus in Washington park (since the school yard will be undergoing large change with the Turf conversion/renovation).

South West Arbor Fest – April 26

Rob talked with the board about feedback from last year's Arbor Day activities and plans for this year. The board discussed some changes to streamline activities for the day. The waiver for kids climbing will be electronic so kids can be accommodated as long as time permits. This activity will be run by SavATree again. The Urban Wood Auction will have "buy it now" pricing. The tree tour will be available for advance sign up (similar to downtown tree tours during Farmer's Market). Further work will be done to refine the silent auction portion, including moving the payment table to the opposite side of the plaza and moving the paid trees away from the planting demo. Bill Cooper volunteered to add a young tree pruning training session.

Tree Seedling Delivery will be limited to 200 houses or 400 seedlings. The form link will go live on Saturday, April 12. Board members suggested adding a question on the form where seedling recipients could volunteer to participate in the delivery.

Contractor Planting Training

Rob talked with the board about the Contractor Planting Training. After further consideration, and noting that the goal is to educate contractors, it seems like offering the training during the more busy time for their businesses might not be as successful as targeting a date in the fall close to when irrigation water is shut down, growing is slowing down, and blow outs haven't begun yet. Board members offered that the 3rd or 4th week of September seems ideal. It would also be a great time to talk to folks about what problems they are seeing in the landscapes.

Chapter 8 Subcommittee Meeting – March 28 at 9am

Other Items to Discuss

Rich Edwards shared with the board that he's been working on distributing the tri-fold (caring for trees) and also the QR code in places where ash trees have been removed so folks know they can request replacement trees.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:15.

Next Meeting – April 3, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist