



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board*

### *Minutes – April 3, 2025*

#### Roll Call

##### Board Members Present:

Scott Beilfuss  
Bill Cooper  
Mollie Freilicher  
Dan Komlo  
Kamie Long  
Earl Perry  
Tanya Travis

##### Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler

##### City Staff Present:

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

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

#### **Approval of the March Minutes**

Mollie Freilicher made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo and was accepted by acclamation.

#### **Public Comments**

#### **New Business**

##### **1018 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

Rob talked with the board about a pear tree on First street. The property owner reached out to City leadership requesting removal of the tree. The tree is the only piece of green infrastructure on the entire property. Rob did a site visit and shared information with Department Directors Ken Sherbenou and Tamra Allen. The green infrastructure in this block is the lowest in the surrounding area. Rob has shared the board's information with the property owner and invited him to come to a meeting; advising him that City policy is not to remove healthy trees. Board members wondered if it was more a site planning issue than a tree issue. It seems that people backing out of spaces unsafely is the larger issue as there is risk to people using the sidewalk which is between the tree and the parking lot. The board opposes the removal of the tree and prefers adjustment of the site plan or curb stops/bollards around the tree.

#### **Arbor Day Proclamation/Vince Urbina Lifetime Achievement Award**

Rob advised the board that the City Council meeting begins at 5:30 and the proclamation and recognition of Vince's lifetime achievement award is the first item on the agenda. Sara will be on hand to take a photo of the gathered group.

### **Tree Seedling Information and Education Materials**

A more in-depth educational handout has been created with information about planting/caring for a seedling. This will be handed out with the delivery seedlings and available at Southwest Arbor Fest (SWAF) to take with a seedling from that event. Kamie and Mollie took the information from the survey to inform the education on the tri fold.

Sign up for delivery seedlings starts Saturday 4/12 at 9am. Deliveries will happen on 4/22 (and 4/23 if necessary). Trish Rothwell has collected a number of volunteers, as have a number of board members and the Master Gardeners will volunteer again this year. Staff will continue to collect volunteers and shorten up routes as we are able.

SWAF – Arbor Day area 9am – 2pm

Rob went over the layout of the Arbor Day activity area. In addition to equipment and the auction area, the City Manager will have a table and be meeting with citizens. This year the auction includes a highest bid option for highly contested trees. The board reviewed area assignments and the general schedule.

Rob reminded the board that staff will be having an Arbor day presentation with Chipeta Elementary on Wednesday, April 23 from 1:45 – 2:45. Mollie Freilicher and Tanya Travis will assist with presenting to the kids.

### **Arbor School in GJ with Forestry Board**

Kamie Long talked with the board about bringing an arbor school to Grand Junction, hosted at the State Forest Service building. The Colorado State Forest Service, Urban Forestry wing is funded with federal dollars. The current administration is unlikely to continue funding the Urban Forestry Division and an Arbor School would be a revenue generator for the state Forest Service. Arbor school would be one day a week over three or four weeks. Board members wondered if there was a need and how many local people would qualify. Kamie shared that allowable experience is broad so a large subset of people would qualify. The primary purpose would be to elevate the arborist skill set in this and surrounding areas and to offer education so that folks can obtain ISA certification.

The next Chapter 8 subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 22 at 9am.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:22.

Next Meeting – May 1, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist