



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

October 3, 2025

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper - present
Mollie Freilicher - present
Earl Perry - present
Tanya Travis - present
Robert Ballard - present

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler
Kamie Long
Dan Komlo

Guests Present:

Joshua Jenkins, Tree Climber Services

City Staff Present:

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

Meeting called to order by Mollie Freilicher at 8:30 AM.

Bill Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Tanya Travis and the minutes were accepted by acclamation.

Public Comments

Josh Jenkins has come in to talk to the Board. Rob spoke with him yesterday and suggested that the questions he has would be best answered by the board.

Mr. Jenkins is owner of Tree Climber Services and has been in town since April of Last year. He worked for a number of tree companies before starting this company. The ISA certification that he was operating under was an employee who left. He has 5 employees. He is scheduled to sit for the test in January. He is comfortable with half the items on the sample test and half he is working to become proficient. Not being able to work in the City right now will cripple this company, and he is working to earn as much as he can now to carry his business through the slower season. He is an owner, but not a majority owner. He is requesting a grace period to allow him to continue working through out the rest of this year until he can take the test. Rob offered clarification that the renewals happen in January and the first list of the new year is posted in the first of February.

Mr. Jenkins shared that he does have two city jobs scheduled for next week and is willing to share the addresses of those jobs so that the City could have some oversight into the kind of work that is being done. He estimates he currently performs about 35% of his work inside City limits. Mr. Jenkins advised the board that he is rearranging his off season work so that he has time to study and invest in passing

the test. Board members wondered why he is approaching the board now. At renewal in 2025 Mr. Jenkins indicated he would be testing. Ali Little made a note in the spreadsheet and indicated that Josh should send his number and/or successful result. The number was never sent. This gap in licensing requirements was not followed up on until late August.

Forestry Board Applications

There were not a lot of open positions Joe Candler's term has been renewed and he will continue.

Market on Main Recap; Notes for 2026

Board members commented that the new location seemed to catch people in the flow of traffic less organically. Board members suggested having more attention grabbers to draw people at the table (trees) and would like a meeting to go through all the handouts to make sure everything is relevant. A tabletop trifold display will be a helpful addition. As predicted, the swag is super popular. Board members suggested setting up the table differently so that it invites people under the tent as opposed to separating people from the folks at the table.

Cameron Walters

Sarah Kennedy introduced Cameron Walters who will be taking over as the communications specialist. He works for the City Communication Office with a focus on Parks and Recreation. He invited the board to send pictures.

Western Colorado Urban Forestry Conference

Mollie Freilicher shared that the conference is October 16 at the Western Campus, there is an internationally renowned speaker attending, Dr. John Ball. CEUs available, and a very reasonable registration rate.

Trees Across Colorado

There is a program through the Colorado Tree Coalition called Trees Across Colorado started by Gertie Grant. The program had #7 trees for a reduced price (less than the current City tree contract). It's a great program to increase diversity, and Rob is hoping to use these trees as part of the Arbor Day Silent Auction program.

ISA Certified Tree Climber Practical 12/8/25

The City is hosting this class in town in December. Being a Certified Tree Climber is a secondary credential to a Certified Arborist. Rob is hoping to get a lot of folks, beyond City staff, signed up to achieve this credential.

The State Forest Service is putting on an Arborist School named in honor of Vince Urbina. It's designed to prepare you for the Arborist exam. It is Fridays in October 8 – 4 and it is virtual.

Japanese Beetle Outreach

Mesa County is looking for volunteers to help with outreach (door knocking) about Japanese Beetle mitigation efforts. The beetle count is up from last year and they have been trapped in widespread locations throughout the valley. Mesa County is looking to continue paying for treatments in the 2026 treatment zones.

Rules and Regulations - ANSI A300

There are 140 pages of standards. It's similar to the Z133 standards. Rob will send the digital copy to interested Board members. The next Forestry Regulations updates sub-committee meeting is 10/23.

Chapter 8 Draft - tabled

Other items to discuss

Forestry Updates

Trees Trimmed (full trims, not single branches for sign raising) 500 trees trimmed this year. Partially that is due to increased contract services dollars so SavATree has helped with this trimming as well.

Holiday light install begins on 10/13 and is a 3 week process to install.

Earl asked about the budget for Christmas Lights. Rob shared information on what it costs to install lights. The project requires around 1500 labor hours, lift rentals, has a budget of \$7000 to be spent on actual lights and the total equivalent in dollars is more than \$50,000 each year. Earl wondered if this is the best use of tax payer dollars.

Main Street lights feel like a sacred thing that are a long-standing tradition. Arborists in lots of places install Christmas lights. Rob met with the DDA yesterday and they are going to budget \$10,000 to support this work. Board members wondered if there was other priority work that arborists should be focused on that lights take them away from that.

Rob shared that while best arboriculture practices would have staff trim 2000 trees a year, currently staff trim between 400 and 500. From the public's perspective, the experience created in November and December is a priority, and the arborists do trim the downtown trees as they are installing lights. Additionally, if a vendor did it the install, the cost would be quadruple.

Private Ash Treatment

This is a tight budget year, so these program dollars are on the table for reductions.

Tree Climber Services Request

Robert Ballard made a motion to deny Tree Climber Services an exception to the licensing requirements for the balance of 2025. The motion was seconded by Bill Cooper and carried unanimously.

Yes 5

No 0

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:03am

Next Meeting – November 6, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist