



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

January 8, 2026

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper
Mollie Freilicher
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Tanya Travis
Robert Ballard

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler
Earl Perry

Guests Present:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney
Triston Harrison, Admin Support

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

Kamie Long noted a spelling correction for Susan Carter, and a clarification about her project goal.

Kamie Long made a motion to approve December 11th meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mollie Freilicher and carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

New Business

Election of 2026 Chair and Vice Chair

Kamie Long requests to step down from Chair and looks for new nominations of Chair and Vice Chair. Nominations for Chair included Mollie Freilicher and Bill Cooper for Chair. Nominations for Vice Chair included Bill Cooper and Tanya Travis.

Board agreed that the second-place vote for Chair to be considered for Vice Chair.

Tanya Travis made a motion to move the vote to an email vote instead of an in-person vote due to absent board members at the January 8th meeting. Dan Komlo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Rob Davis will inform the board of the results during February 5th meeting.

Board Meeting Scheduling; Review for 2026

Rob Davis asked the board review 2026 Calendar to determine whether future meeting dates might conflict with holidays or personal absences.

Jamie Beard suggested having any date changes finalized at the beginning of the year to promote transparency. The board agreed that all 2026 Forestry Board meetings will take place on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of the July meeting, which will be rescheduled to July 9. Triston Harrison will send meeting invitations to board members for all 2026 Forestry Board meetings.

Forestry Regulations Meeting Scheduling

Board agrees to schedule the next Rules and Regulations subcommittee meeting for Jan 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Forestry Board Bylaws

Jamie Beard reviewed the suggestions made by Board members at the December 11th meeting and presented the proposed changes to the Board. The board reviewed Jamie Beard's suggestions and agreed to two major rule changes in the code, along with clarifying and revising specific wording to improve clarity.

The two major changes suggested revise the board member term limit from a 3-year limit to a 4-year term limit and change the quorum to require a minimum of 5 votes in favor for approval.

The board agreed to further review the proposed changes and will vote on approval of the bylaw revisions at the February 5th Board meeting.

Jamie Beard will provide a finalized draft of the proposed bylaw changes for the January 21st Rules and Regulations Subcommittee meeting.

Xcel Energy Line Clearance; ArborWorks quality of work and License

Rob Davis informed the Board of his experience working with the licensed arborist company ArborWorks. The current concern with ArborWorks is a lack of communication with City staff when working in public areas, which has disrupted preplanned work. In addition, ArborWorks has been documented making pruning cuts that do not meet industry standards and appear harmful to the health of the trees being pruned. Rob Davis presented photo evidence of pruning work completed by ArborWorks.

Rob Davis also informed the Board that the company's certified ISA holder has left ArborWorks, and the city is awaiting verification from ArborWorks regarding their newest ISA-certified staff member.

Jamie Beard recommended sending a notice to ArborWorks for being in violation of the requirement to maintain up-to-date certification for City of Grand Junction arborist work.

Robert Ballard made a motion to send a notice to ArborWorks regarding these violations. Mollie Freilicher seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest

Kamie Long informed group of a 5th grade poster contest that occurs for Arbor Day. Contest is nationwide and winners from each school goes to higher levels of competition.

Rob Davis wants to encourage the participation of local schools in the contest. CTC is asking board to help reach out to local teachers and schools to pitch contest involvement.

Tanya Travis took the lead of reaching out to different schools and teachers to share contest details and how they can get students involved.

Rob will reach out to Doug Schoch who has assisted with similar projects in the past. Poster theme this year is "Healthy Tree, Healthy Community".

IRA Grant 2026

Board will discuss IRA Grant at a later date.

Other Items to discuss

Tanya Travis discussed promoting drought awareness in the Grand Valley and looked for opinion on what the board should do to spread water conservation awareness in drought like conditions.

Rob Davis suggests reaching out to Cameron Walters to create social media posts for drought water conservation awareness. Rob Davis informed board there has already been one round of published social media posts for winter watering awareness.

Tanya Travis suggests creating a follow up email with local irrigation groups to make sure they are making sure consumers are aware of best winter watering in a drought practices.

Forestry Updates

2026 Budget Reductions

Contracted Tree Care – reduced to \$62,500 (\$250,000 to \$187,500)

Private Ash Treatment Program – reduced to \$45,000 (\$65,300 to \$20,300)

Keeping 50/50 cost share; going out to new bid; launch date

Removal Season

Removal Season was not discussed.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting – February 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Triston Harrison