



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

February 5, 2026

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Joseph Chandler
Bill Cooper
Mollie Freilicher
Kamie Long
Earl Perry
Tanya Travis

Board Members Absent: Robert Ballard
Dan Komlo

Guests Present:

City Staff Present: Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Ali Little, Customer Service Supervisor
Cameron Walters, Communications Specialist

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

The board reviewed the minutes and noted that Earl Perry is listed as both Present and Absent and was Present at the rules and reg meeting, but absent from the Advisory Board meeting. Bill Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Tanya Travis and carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Officer Election Results

Rob shared with the board the results of the officer elections. Mollie Freilicher has been elected Chair and Bill Cooper will serve as Vice Chair. Thanks to Kamie for her many years of service as Chair.

Winter Watering

Cameron talked with the Board about the promotion around winter watering. There was a press release and changes to the City website. The City, for the first time since Rob joined the department, has begun winter watering City parks. The Board made suggestions about additional information that can be added about ways to water and reminders to remove hoses from spigots when watering is completed. The board will email Cameron suggestions for additions.

Upcoming Presentations

Rob will be presenting at the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference in February and Durangoscape in March.

Southwest ArborFest

SavATree is the Arbor Day sponsor again this year. Other sponsors for the whole event continue to come in. The Arbor Day portion of the event will be one hour shorter.

Rob talked with the board about the silent auction trees which are coming from Trees Across Colorado this year. There will be less rounds of auctions this year, due to the shortened time frame. If there are more trees in the auction more space will be needed for trees, and tables for auction clipboards. Board members talked through the silent auction process, event layout and directional/informational signage, potential reorganization of where things land. There will not be a tree pruning event.

Seedling Delivery

Rob talked with the board about seedling delivery, the history behind it, the work involved in the project and the desire of the board moving forward. Volunteers seemed to really enjoy the process of delivering trees last year. Some board members wondered if it the delivery continues to be worth the effort involved, others have had really positive interactions with community members around these deliveries.

Market on Main

Rob asked the board for confirmation of their participation in Market on Main again in 2026. The board wants to continue and really appreciated the staff involvement. Rob will talk with the staff to see if staff will participate again.

Central Library Presentation

Rob shared hesitations about a Central Library presentation this year since last year's presentation wasn't very well attended. He is wondering about a tree pruning presentation that would be both indoor and outdoor and scheduled at a time when it could be promoted during Market on Main.

Chipeta Arbor Day Presentation

The Chipeta Arbor Day program was created as a part of the IRA grant. The funding for that grant is still in flex, but the State Forest Service is hoping they can resume authorizing funding in March.

Other Items To Discuss

Rob shared with the board that on February 18 the significant tree portion of the development code is going back to City Council. Rob has already shared his feedback with the Planning Commission. Rob reminded the board of the current specifics of the significant tree code which is meant to help protect mature tree canopy.

Tom Ziola approached Kamie Long about setting up another Licensed Tree Care Company Day of Service. He suggested the Watson Island area. Staff prefers to focus that work in City parks and liked a fall timeline.

Kamie Long reminded the board that they had talked about offering a planting course during the spring. Though the window has closed for this year, Kamie wanted to make sure offering this course and certificate stayed on the board's radar.

2026 Licensing Renewals

The 2026 renewals have been completed (for the time being) and the current list is posted on the City Website. Some companies from last year still have outstanding items and are not currently included on the list.

There is a hiring fair on February 17 for all City Seasonal (including Parks, Recreation, and Forestry) jobs. There are additional hiring fairs scheduled in March and April if the board knows of folks who are looking for seasonal employment.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:22.

Next Meeting – Rescheduled: March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Little