



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board

Minutes

April 2nd

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Mollie Freilicher
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Earl Perry
Tanya Travis

Board Members Absent:

Robert Ballard
Joseph Chandler
Bill Cooper

Guests Present:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Cameron Walters, Communications Specialist
Triston Harrison, Admin Support
Anna Wirth, Admin Specialist
Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:33 AM.

The Board reviewed the minutes from March 11th Forestry Board meeting. Two spelling errors were noted and the board corrected who created invites for the March 26th Palisade Insectary Tour from Kamie Long to Mollie Freilicher.

Kamie Long made a motion to approve the February 5th Forestry Board minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Earl Perry and carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

New Business

Rob Davis introduced Anna Wirth to the Board as the Parks Department's new Administrative Specialist.

Forestry Bylaws

Jamie Beard discussed altering two current Forestry Board bylaws with the board. The first amendment would remove the provision allowing an active City Council member to hold voting rights in Forestry Board decisions. The second amendment would extend Board member term limits from three years to four years.

The Board will revisit these proposed amendments at the May 7 meeting.

Private Ash Treatment 2026

Rob Davis reported that registration for the Root for Your Trees Program opened on April 1, with approximately 25 households enrolled as of April 2. A recurring concern among SavATree clients was the revised eligibility requirement, which extends the treatment cycle from two years to three years.

Volunteer appreciation Dinner

Rob informs board of the volunteer appreciation dinner will be hosted on April 27th.

Spring Clean Up Damage

Rob Davis presented examples of properties where improper maintenance resulted in damage to City-owned trees. He proposed implementing proactive communications in future years to inform residents of the consequences of unauthorized work on City trees and to provide guidance on submitting tree work requests.

The Board discussed potential communication methods for Grand Junction residents, including articles in the Daily Sentinel, radio announcements, news bulletins, mailed notices, door-to-door handouts, and collaboration with Mesa County to incorporate messaging into existing pest awareness campaigns.

Rob Davis also outlined the City's follow-up procedures for tree damage, which include appraising the value of the damaged tree and seeking reimbursement from the property owner. Alternative remedies may include requiring the property owner to fund the planting of a replacement tree at the residence or within a City park.

The Board will continue discussion of 2027 Spring Clean-Up communication strategies at future meetings. Rob Davis will provide updates on enforcement and communication efforts in later meetings.

Real-estate Trifold

Rob Davis proposed reintroducing the previously developed real estate trifold for distribution to new homeowners within City limits. The trifold is intended to provide information on proper tree care and municipal forestry regulations.

The Board recommended outreach to local real estate groups, including the Grand Junction Newcomers Club, to assist with distribution.

Seedling Descriptions

Rob presented the Arbor Day tree seedling giveaway information page to the board. The page was designed by Cameron Walters and written by Kamie Long and Mollie Freilicher. The board suggested minor revisions to the designs, and Cameron Walters will make adjustments based on the feedback.

Marketing and Signage

Rob Davis presented draft signage for the Southwest Arbor Fest. The Board recommended several revisions, including:

- Updating tree auction language to indicate "last 10 minutes" instead of "last 30 minutes" for final bids

- Clarifying that participants may receive a maximum of two free t-shirts

Additional suggestions included incorporating pricing context on tree tag signage. The Board agreed to include a brief description explaining what the tree pricing meant to the property owners.

Tree seedling delivery volunteers

Cameron Walters conducted outreach to prior program volunteers to gauge interest in participating in 2026. Rob Davis reported that 25 volunteers supported the program last year.

Rob Davis also suggested expanding outreach to outdoor-oriented businesses to promote volunteer opportunities.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to maintain the 2025 distribution approach: fulfilling initial species requests when available, with substitution options (shade or ornamental trees) if necessary.

Arbor Fest

Rob Davis reviewed final preparations for the Southwest Arbor Fest scheduled for April 25.

Triston Harrison was assigned to prepare tree auction descriptions. Rob Davis will order vertical display stands for the final bid table and mark tree placement locations in the plaza.

The Board requested that bidder name and contact information be included on final bid cards. Kamie Long also suggested developing updated “Ask an Arborist” signage.

Wood slab auction

Rob Davis informs the Board wooden slabs will be altered to fit 16 slabs compared to last year's 10 slabs to improve efficiency.

Rules and Regs

Discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

Other items to discuss

Rob discusses his current events and plans obligations:

- Tells board the IRA Grant was approved for the amount of \$50,000. Additional updates will be provided at future meetings.
- Rob Davis showed board the sewage replacement project Forestry is taking on at 2025 N 4th St to preserve the health of an Ash Tree. Part of the sidewalk will be removed and replaced in an effort to detour a sewage line around the root structure of the Ash Tree.

Cameron Walters informed the Board they have been approved for a space at the Market on Main.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:10am

Next Meeting – May 7th at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Triston Harrison

