



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

August 6, 2026

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bill Cooper
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Chandler
Mollie Freilicher
Earl Perry
Anna Stout
Tanya Travis

Guests Present:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Cameron Walters, Communications Specialist
Anna Wirth, Admin Specialist
Sara Kinkade, Water Conservation Specialist
Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney

Meeting called to order by Bill Cooper at 8:40am.

Approval of Minutes

Since a quorum was not present, approval of the July 9 meeting minutes was postponed until the September meeting.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

New Business

Volunteer Program; Tanya and Dan

Dan informed the Board that he had been speaking with Tanya about developing a volunteer program to support public outreach and forestry-related efforts. Potential volunteer activities could include assisting with Arbor Fest, seedling organization and delivery, IRA grant efforts, data collection and inventory updates, tree-watering issues, school presentations, neighborhood canvassing, flyer distribution, public education, and pruning.

Dan outlined several steps to establish a volunteer program:

- The Board would need to define the program's mission and goals.
- Volunteer roles and tasks would need to be identified.
- Position descriptions would need to be developed outlining responsibilities, required skills, and time commitments.
- Volunteers would then need to be recruited and provided with appropriate training.

Dan asked the Board for feedback on whether they felt a volunteer program would be useful and whether there would be enough variety in tasks to keep volunteers interested and engaged.

The Board discussed how volunteer forestry programs in Fort Collins and Denver are structured and shared contacts who may be able to provide additional information and guidance.

The Board also discussed the feasibility of developing a local program. Members noted that tasks such as inventory inspection updates, flyer distribution, and public education would be well suited for volunteers. Pruning was identified as a more challenging activity due to the level of training and oversight that would be required.

The Board discussed whether the benefits of adding volunteers would outweigh the additional time and effort required to recruit, train, and manage the volunteer program.

Forestry Updates

Bylaw Update

Jamie Beard discussed the proposed bylaws updates with the Board.

Jamie then informed the Board that the hearing regarding proposed changes to the significant tree section of the City Code is scheduled for September 2. The proposed change would remove the "preservation of significant trees" section from the City Code, which has been noted as a potential factor increasing costs for affordable housing projects.

The Board discussed the effectiveness of the current code, noting concerns that trees are being removed before development applications are submitted. Members discussed the importance of identifying and considering significant trees early in the development process and emphasized the need for Forestry and Planning to work together. A general meeting or pre-application meeting may provide an appropriate opportunity to identify trees that should be considered for preservation at the beginning of a project.

A board member asked whether a letter from the Board to City Council would be beneficial in communicating that, while the current significant tree provisions may not be working effectively, the intent behind them is important and the language should be updated rather than removed entirely.

Jamie Beard suggested that the Board consider developing an updated version of the significant tree provisions and presenting it to City Council.

Water Conservation and Tree Health

Rob informed the Board that he compiled a list of trees that are currently struggling and plans to send flyers to affected homeowners reminding them of their responsibility to water ROW trees. The Board discussed a more formal approach involving official warning letters and potential fines if watering issues are not addressed. A two-step approach was suggested, beginning with an educational reminder and followed by a formal warning if there is no improvement.

The Board also discussed the importance of educating homeowners about the importance of watering trees during the drought and the long-term benefits trees provide. The Board also highlighted the importance of educating homeowners about the need to continue watering trees during the winter months.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:10am.

Next Meeting – September 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wirth