



GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES



February 7, 2003

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Vince Urbina at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Vince Urbina
Steve Gerow
Mike Heinz
Mitch Elliott

Parks Dept. Staff Present: Mike Vendegna

Non Board Members Present: Ed Mort

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Vince Urbina moved to approve the January 3, 2003 minutes. Mitch Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

1. Christmas light removal has begun and scheduled for completion by the end of February.
2. Planning has begun for the 2003 planting season. The supervisor and the Forestry Division maintenance staff are evaluating trees that have performed well and are developing a list of trees available for the 2003 Street Tree Planting program.
3. Street tree, park and facility tree removals have been completed. Stump removal operations have begun and are scheduled for completion in March.
4. The Forestry Division will be replacing the bandit chipper, the winch truck, and the supervisor's vehicle in 2003.
5. Forestry crew members attended the Progreen Expo January 13 – 17, 2003, in Denver.

Item 4: Old Business

WESTERN SLOPE TREE CARE WORKSHOP:

Forestry crew member, David Bullen, was unable to attend to give his report regarding ideas for the 2003 workshop. Vince Urbina moved to postpone this discussion until Mr. Bullen is able to attend. Steve Gerow seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 5: New Business

ARBOR DAY 2002:

Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Ed Mort, addressed the Forestry Board regarding a union between Southwest Fest and Arborfest. Mr. Mort stated that he has recently accepted the responsibility to coordinate this years Southwest Fest and feels that the two events would compliment each other. The Southwest Fest is being moved from Main Street to Lincoln Park and will be held on the same day as Arborfest. Southwest Fest events will include Touch – a – Truck, the chili cook-off, hundreds of booths, animals, and attractions for kids on the football field. Mike Vendegna asked Ed Mort if he anticipated the need for the Lincoln Park Barn. He stated that the barn and the barn patio are reserved for Arborfest but the barn will be used only if we have inclement weather. Ed Mort said he did not think so, but that it would be a good option. Vince Urbina stated he sees only a win – win situation for both groups. He asked Mr. Mort how many attendees he anticipated. Ed Mort stated the figures he received from the Downtown Development Authority averaged over 3,500. Mike Heinz asked if traffic and pedestrian control had been considered. Ed Mort responded that he has a number of volunteers to help with traffic control and any other need that may arise. Steve Gerow stated this sounds like an excellent idea and volunteered to help as much as possible. Mike Heinz and Mitch Elliott agreed with Steve.

Vince Urbina moved that the Forestry Board accept Ed Mort’s proposal and the two events be held together. Mitch Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

ARBOR DAY 2003 STUDENT PROGRAM:

Mike Vendegna reported that in conjunction with the discussion regarding the Arbor Day program, Saturday April 19, 2003, the student program will be held on April 17, 2003, in the Lincoln Park Barn from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mike Vendegna requested suggestions for this year’s program. Vince Urbina stated that we have a new audience each year and that last year’s program was excellent, suggesting we have the same type. He feels we could shorten it and have a longer outdoor program. The outdoor planting and spraying classes were also excellent. Steve Gerow agreed and stated we should start just a little later so all schools get there around the same time. Mike Vendegna agreed and said we will look at the timing. Mike Vendegna pointed out to the Board that this year is the City of Grand Junction’s 20th year being selected as a “Tree City USA”. Vince Urbina said this is a big honor and we should do something special. Mike Vendegna suggested Arbor Month. Mr. Vendegna has been approached by the service learning group at Central High School. Requesting the City sponsor a project for the up-coming career days they are hosting for middle schools. Mike Vendegna suggested the Forestry Board request the City Council proclaim April as Arbor Month for the City of Grand Junction and the Board assist service learning with a tree planting program, providing an opportunity for the students to get involved with the physical planting.

Steve Gerow suggested, in conjunction with this planting project, we plant trees at all the schools within city limits; thus continuing Arbor Month throughout the month. He suggested we plant trees at one school each day. Vince Urbina stated he felt this was a good idea, possibly an award winning idea, but expressed concern that Mike Vendegna has a full plate now and does not need to add this additional work if the Forestry Board can't assist. Steve Gerow, Mitch Elliott and Mike Heinz all stated they would devote as much time to the effort as possible. Mike Vendegna said he would discuss the proposal with the Forestry and Horticulture crews, as they would be vital in the program's success. Mike Vendegna stated he would report to the Board at the next meeting and a decision would be made then. All Board members agreed.

Item 6: Adjourn

Vince Urbina reiterated the next meeting date of March 7, 2003, and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting. No discussion was requested. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department
Forestry Maintenance Supervisor