



GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES



March 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
Ian Gray

Parks Dept. Staff Present: Mike Vendegna
Forestry Division Crew

Non Board Members Present: None

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Vince Urbina moved to approve the February 7, 2003 minutes. Steve Gerow 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 was completed 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. Forestry work orders for tree service are completely caught up. Removals are 95% complete and crews are currently preparing for the 2003 maintenance season.

Item 4: Old Business

WESTERN SLOPE TREE CARE WORKSHOP:

Forestry crew member, David Bullen, presented his suggestions for the 2003 Western Slope Tree Care Workshop. Mr. Bullen recommended the workshop focus on "How to Trim a Tree" and provide information on the use of ropes & saddles, safety, chain saw maintenance, trimming cuts, how to tie into a tree, etc.

Item 4: Old Business (cont.)

Research will be conducted to select speakers that are highly regarded in the field and can contribute to the education of professional tree trimmers as well as all attendees. Discussion ensued regarding the potential danger of nonprofessionals using the professional tree trimming skills obtained at the clinic. It is essential that climbing and large tree trimming skills be used in combination with years of experience. Tom Ziola suggested the clinic be structured with breakout sessions that would provide different levels of expertise. This type of program has not been presented in Grand Junction before and would be very beneficial. Mr. Ziola also recommended the clinic be a two-day workshop with the second day consisting of an infield, hands-on program for the professional tree trimmers. Mike Vendegna suggested the clinic incorporate the legal issues of tree trimming, similar to the 1998 workshop. Mr. Vendegna also suggested including customer service training, as he was a co-trainer for the City's customer service training program and highly recommends it. Vince Urbina stated the ideas shared were excellent and recommended proceeding, with him, Mike Vendegna and one or two of the Forestry staff members working together to create an agenda. The suggested dates for the workshop are December 11 and 12, 2003. Mike Vendegna stated he would reserve Two Rivers Convention Center and the Lincoln Park Barn for the event.

Vince Urbina moved that the 2003 Western Slope Tree Care Workshop be a two day program with the emphasis being hands-on tree trimming.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Board: Yes 5 No 0

ARBOR DAY 2003:

Mike Vendegna reported that plans are in progress for the 2003 Arbor Day celebration. The student program will be held on April 17, 2003, in the Lincoln Park Barn from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The Saturday program will be on April 19, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mike Vendegna requested suggestions for this year's student program. Vince Urbina stated that there is a new audience each year and that last year's program was excellent, suggesting the use of the same format. Mr. Urbina expressed the outdoor planting and spraying classes were also excellent and that he'd like to extend the length of the outdoor program. Steve Gerow agreed and suggested starting a little later so all the schools get there around the same time. Tom Ziola suggested longer outdoor, hands-on break out sessions. Vince Urbina suggested inviting the BLM fire unit to discuss fires and the drought, stating he would contact BLM. Mike Vendegna reported he has been approached by the service learning group at Central High School (CHS), requesting the City sponsor a project for the up-coming career days CHS is hosting on April 5, 2003. Mr. Vendegna suggested the Forestry Board and the Forestry Division sponsors this program and has a tree planting program for the students in City parks. This type of an effort would provide an opportunity for the students to get involved with the physical planting of trees and learn how important trees are to the quality of life. Mike Vendegna stated he would provide more information at the next Board meeting.

Item 5: New Business

NEW FORESTRY BOARD MEMBER

Welcome Ian Gray! Mike Vendegna introduced Ian Gray to the Board and Forestry Division staff members. City Council appointed Mr. Gray to the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board on February 26, 2003.

Item 6: Adjourn

Vince Urbina reiterated the next meeting date of April 4, 2003, and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting. No discussion was requested. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department
Forestry Maintenance Supervisor