



GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES



January 9, 2004

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

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Vince Urbina
Dutch Afman
Mike Heinz
Mitch Elliott
Ian Gray

Staff Present:

Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Due to a there not being a quorum at the last Forestry Advisory Board meeting, there were no minutes available for review.

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

Mike Vendegna reported 2003 was the best year in his 11 years with the City, with regards to work preformed by the Forestry crews. All work orders have been completed. The trimming schedule for 2003, in conjunction with the 3 to 5 year trimming program, which was adopted in January 2003, is 99% complete. Mr. Vendegna also discussed the following items, which were a part of the successful last three months:

1. Fall tree planting began on November 3, 2003. Trees were planted at Lincoln Park Golf Course (80), City Cemeteries (29), Duck Pond Park (2), and Canyon View Park (15). The trees (59) were transplanted from the City nursery and cottonwood trees (59) were purchased from a private home owner on Orchard Mesa.
2. Tree removals are currently 80% complete. The total number of removals is down 30%, due to a proactive insect, disease, trimming, watering and the general tree care maintenance plan.
3. Christmas light removal has begun and is scheduled for completion by the end of February.
4. Planning has begun for the 2004 planting season. The Forestry? Supervisor and the Forestry Division maintenance staff are evaluating trees that have performed well and are developing a list of trees available for the Street Tree Planting program.
5. The Forestry Division will be replacing the Vermeer stump grinder in 2004.
6. Forestry crew members will be attending the ProGreen Expo January 26 – 30, 2004 in Denver.

7. Tom Ziola and Allen Lundy will be attending the Think Trees Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 27 – 31, 2004.
8. Forestry Division has taken delivery of a new winch truck that will be replacing the existing winch. The new truck is triple the size of the existing truck and can be used for much more than hauling logs.

Item 4: Old Business

WESTERN SLOPE TREE CARE WORKSHOP 2003 WRAP UP:

Mike Vendegna thanked Vince Urbina for an excellent job compiling the information from the workshop evaluation forms. Mr. Vendegna reported the workshop was a huge success and the evaluations were very positive. Mr. Vendegna also stated the evaluations confirmed the two day format provided information that was pertinent to what is currently happening in the valley and the horticulture industry. Dutch Afman said Bob Hammond's presentation on the Pinion Ips Beetle was excellent. Mitch Elliott stated he agreed with Mr. Afman and said the workshop was the best to date. Mike Vendegna thanked the Board for their help and support. Discussion took place regarding notification, mailings, brochures and advertising for future workshops. Dutch Afman requested a break down of the attendee's (i.e., Professional Arborists, Master Gardeners, and public entities). Mike Vendegna stated the breakdown should not be a problem and that he will work to have it prepared by the next Forestry Advisory Board meeting. Ian Gray suggested the next workshop include the topic of "trees and construction". Vince Urbina stated he liked Mr. Gray's idea and recommended the Board consider the suggestion, requesting further discussion at the next Forestry Advisory Board meeting.

Item 5: New Business

ARBOR DAY 2004:

Mike Vendegna reported "Arborfest" will be April 15 and April 17, 2004. April 15th will be the student program and April 17th will be in conjunction with South West Arborfest. The activities will be listed in the Winter/Spring Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, which will be released on January 10, 2004. Mr. Vendegna stated the format for the two days will remain the same and the activities for the student program are currently in the planning stages. Mr. Vendegna suggested the Saturday program displays be set up, which will provide options for using trees that have to be removed. Mr. Vendegna suggested one of the displays could be "Magpie Woodworks". Magpie Woodworks uses the removed trees to make very attractive bowls, vases, house hold items, etc. Mr. Vendegna also suggested mulching displays, and displays that provide recycling options. Mitch Elliott suggested a composting display and Dutch Afman suggested a company that makes tooth picks. Vince Urbina stated that, while he liked all the suggestions, it was important to keep the audience in mind, as third graders have a very limited attention span. Mr. Afman stated he would try to locate the tooth pick company. Mr. Vendegna said he would contact Magpie Woodworks. Ian Gray suggested using the Dr. Suess Book, "The Lorax" as a format for the student program. In the book, the Lorax saves forest trees from being cut down. Mr. Gray stated this would make a great theme and could develop an excellent interaction between the actors and the students. Mike Vendegna said he will get the book and see how it can be adapted into a skit that will entertain that kids, as well as educate them on the importance of trees and the importance of taking care of Grand Junction's trees.

WESTERN SLOPE TREE CARE WORKSHOP 2004:

Mike Vendegna stated that after a brief meeting with Vince Urbina, both, Mr. Vendegna and Mr. Urbina felt the Board should begin preparation now for the 2004 workshop. Mr. Urbina suggested the focus of the 2004 workshop be “back to the basics”, using the certified arborist exam criteria as the guidelines. Mr. Vendegna suggested the material be presented in a way that will prepare attendees to take the certified exam, while remaining pertinent to the attendees who are interested in learning more about trees and their care. Mike Heinz stated the 2003 workshop really touched on the tree trimming and rigging techniques, which the professional trimmer really needs. Mr. Urbina and Mr. Afman agreed with Mr. Heinz and recommended the Board consider heading in that direction. Mr. Afman stated that more emphasis should be put on the ISA Certified Arborist Exam and that board members and licensed arborist, within the City, should reach out to non-licensed and non-attending licensed arborists, encouraging them to attend future workshops. Vince Urbina stated the decision to continue a two day program was up to Mike Vendegna. Ian Gray suggested that Mr. Vendegna and Mr. Urbina utilize the Forestry Advisory Board to assist in upcoming workshops. Vince Urbina questioned, based on two of the evaluation comments, whether or not the workshop should be moved to November. Mike Vendegna, Ian Gray and Mike Heinz stated they felt December is a much better time to keep the attendance as high as it has been. Discussion ensued.

Vince Urbina moved the 2004 Western Slope Tree Care Workshop be held on December 9 and 10, 2004. Mike Heinz seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 1

FORESTRY BOARD GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:

Mike Vendegna requested the Board develop a list of goals and expectations for 2004. Mike Heinz suggested the Board become more involved with licensing and encourage unlicensed trimmers to become licensed, get more involved with proper trimming practices and gain a better understanding of the latest industry standards. Vince Urbina suggested the Board write monthly or bi-monthly articles listing the licensing requirements and proper trimming, along with an additional timely topic. Mr. Urbina suggested Mike Vendegna research ways the Board could publish the articles, such as the City of Grand Junction’s news letter. Mr. Urbina stated that, due to time constraints, the discussion would be continued at the next Forestry Advisory Board meeting.

Item 6: Adjourn

Vince Urbina reiterated the next meeting date of February 9, 2003. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department
Forestry Maintenance Supervisor