



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

January 7, 2005

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

Roll Call

Board Members present: Vince Urbina
Dutch Afman
Mike Heinz
David Gave
Ian Gray

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Item 2: Approve Minutes

No minutes available for review.

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

1. Mike Vendegna reported that trimming crews had a far above average year in tree trimming completed.
2. Mr. Vendegna reported the numbers of tree removals are down 30% from last year and crews are almost two months ahead of schedule.
3. Mr. Vendegna reported he is working in conjunction with the city wide facility study to evaluate existing forestry, horticulture and cemetery division's shops, equipment parking and storage.
4. Mr. Vendegna reported Christmas lighting is being removed from City Hall, Two Rivers Convention Center, Visitor & Convention Bureau, 12th Street and North Avenue and the Park Administration office. The lighting on Main Street will remain on until February 14th at the request of the Down Town merchants.
5. Mike Vendegna reported one forestry employee will be attending the Progreen Expo in Denver January 10th to the 14th.

Item 4: Welcome new forestry board member David Gave:

Vince Urbina welcomed David Gave to the forestry board as the board's newest member. Mike Vendegna stated it was a pleasure to finally meet Mr. Gave and welcomed him to the board. Greetings took place from all board members.

Item 5: Review of City of Grand Junction code of Ordinance chapter 40 vegetation:

Chairman Vince Urbina opened discussion regarding the vegetation ordinance review by asking board members if they had an opportunity to review the copies of the ordinance distributed at past meetings and if there are any comments. Dutch Afman suggested that due to time constraints at regularly scheduled board meetings that a separate lunch meeting of an hour to an hour and a half be scheduled and devoted only to reviewing the ordinance. Mr. Afman also suggested we discuss the ordinance review with the City Attorney, John Shaver, as to what the board can and can not do in regards to changing the ordinance. The goal is to add to the ordinance more specific standards for trimming, planting and general tree maintenance that must be followed by any tree trimming operation conducting business within city limits. These standards would be developed to the highest of today's industry guidelines using ISA and American National Standards. Mr. Mike Vendegna stated this is an outstanding idea and recommended we combine an ordinance review meeting and a thank you lunch for our going member Mitch Elliott. All board members agreed and January 21, 2005, was selected. Mr. Afman requested that Mr. Vendegna contact the City Attorney prior to the 21st meeting date and that he contact the board members as to the time and location after he had made all the necessary arrangements. .

Item 5: 2004 Western Slope Tree Care Workshop:

Mike Vendegna reported that the workshop was truly excellent and the feed back from attendees were more than positive. Mike Heinz stated that both days were very good and that Charlie Wagner's all day tree trimming demonstration was excellent. Mike Vendegna passed out pictures of the program. Vince Urbana explained to Dave Gave both days of the program. The forestry division crews set up a 25' tree inside Two Rivers Convention Center and Mr. Wagner used the roof rafters to tie off in to demonstrate rigging, climbing, and proper pruning practices. Mr. Vendegna reiterated how positive this year's program was and stated he has scheduled Two Rivers for the 2005 workshop on December 7th and 8th. The board agreed with the dates and Mr. Urbina suggested the board begin thinking about an agenda for the 2005 workshop.

Item 6: Arbor Day 2004 - 2005:

Mike Vendegna read a letter to the board from the National Arbor Day Foundation stating that the City of Grand Junction has won the 2004 National Arbor Day award for outstanding Arbor Day Celebrations. Mr. Vendegna described the application process and how much he appreciated Vicki Beltran and the entire Forestry Division crew members for all their hard work support and exceptional ideas that make "Arborfest" such a huge success. In conjunction with the award Mr. Vendegna showed the board the forestry division's application for the National Arbor Day Foundations 2005 Tree City USA and 2004 Growth awards.

Item 7: Update of Board Member information:

Mike Vendegna requested that board members review the board member list of telephone numbers, addresses and any further information the board would like to have on the list. Mr. Vendegna also thanks all members for being at the meeting and he will try to do a much better job in 2005 in getting minutes out to members in a timely manner. Mr. Vendegna gave each member a complete list of meeting dates for 2005 and stated he will have a list of licensed tree trimmers to the board members just as soon as it becomes available.

Item 8: Adjourn

Chairman Urbina asked if there are any other matters for discussion. None were brought forth and Mr. Urbina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dutch Afman moved and Ian Gray seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department
Forestry Maintenance Supervisor