



***FORESTRY ADVISORY  
BOARD MINUTES***

**January 21, 2005**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Urbina at 12:30 p.m.**

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: None

Forestry Division Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests: Mitch Elliott  
Steve Gerow

**Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Vince Urbina moved to approve the January 7, 2005 Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board minutes.

Motion adopted by the Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

**Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department**

1. Mike Vendegna stated that due to time constraints and the fact that this meeting was a special meeting called for the specific purpose to discuss an action plan for review and revising the ordinance, that Mr. Vendegna would report forestry division activities at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Forestry Board meeting.

**Item 4: Thank you to departing Forestry Board Member Mitch Elliot:**

Vince Urbina thanked Mitch Elliott for all his support, ideas and devotion to special events during his past six years service on the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board. A round of applause and thank you were extended by all the forestry board members. Mr. Elliott was given a recognition plaque and a luncheon in his honor.

**Item 5: 2004 Western Slope Tree Care Workshop:**

Mike Vendegna reported to the board ideas for next year's workshop he had received from the forestry division crew members. Mr. Vendegna stated that four crew members approached him regarding classes on safety – tree trimming and general safety, as well as insect and disease control, working in traffic, customer service and motivating employees. Mr. Vendegna stated these were just suggestions for the board to ponder and Mr. Vendegna recommended that the board discuss this matter at future meetings. Dave Gave agreed and Vince Urbina asked the board to give the forestry division crews suggestions some consideration and to bring their thoughts to the next board meeting.

**Item 6: Arbor Day 2004 - 2005:**

Mike Vendegna reiterated to the board that Arbor Day is right around the corner and that the Forestry Board and Forestry Division should join efforts to develop a Thursday program as soon as possible. Mr. Vendegna reported that forestry crew member Kory Jones had an idea as to a program for the students. Mr. Jones suggested that we build a large tree in the barn at the edge of the stage from ground up to about 10 feet. Dan Wiedrich would then become "Tree Beard" and teach the attendees how important trees are. There would be various elements of vandalism to the tree and Tree Beard would let everyone know how bad this is. It would take some creativity but the forestry crew members feel it can be done. Mr. Vendegna stated that as with the workshop these are ideas to ponder and the board could discuss them at the next meeting in two weeks. Dutch Afman agreed and recommends the board give their thoughts then.

Mike Vendegna stated that in conjunction with Arbor Day the forestry division would like to do some type of recognition for Fruitvale Elementary School. Mr. Vendegna requested that when a presentation is scheduled that as many board members attend who can. Fruitvale first grade classes presented the "Lorax" at last years presentation and were part of the city winning the national award. The forestry division crew members feel it would be only right to recognize the school. Vince Urbina asked when the presentation would be and Mr. Vendegna said he is working on the details. Mike Heinz thought it was a great idea and to let the board know if they could be of assistance.

**Item 7: Review of City of Grand Junction 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 were any comments. Mr. Urbina also stated that he is aware of two front range cities that require any company conducting tree maintenance must have a certified arborist on staff. Mr. Urbina said he is bringing this to the boards' attention because he feels this is the trend of the future and the board should make this a goal in conjunction with the ordinance review.

Ian Gray and Dutch Afman both agreed but stated it may take sometime to get a concept of this magnitude implemented. Mike Vendegna reported to the board his findings regarding items he was asked to investigate from the last meeting.

- Discuss the ordinance review with the City Attorney:  
Upon discussion with the City Attorney John Shaver, Mr. Vendegna stated he was excited about his findings. Mr. Shaver said the forestry boards goals were very attainable and described the process to change the ordinance as follows. Review the existing ordinance and decide on what the board would like to revise. Invite area professionals to assist such as all the licensed tree trimmers, Colorado State Cooperative Extension, area nurseries, etc. At this point the City Attorney's office would be involved in writing any recommended changes. Mr. Shaver also stated that adopting tree maintenance standards as a part of the ordinance is a very good idea and easily done. At the end of this process the proposed changes would go to the City Council for review.
- City News letter and ways to inform the public:  
Mike Vendegna reported that the City news letter is distributed every other month and articles must be submitted two weeks before that date. Other ways of informing the public of changes to the ordinance and proper tree maintenance practices are, utility bill inserts, Dr. Curtis Swift's articles and newsletters, Bookcliff Gardens weekly television program, and if need be the forestry division could purchase an ad in the local news papers. Mr. Vendegna said there are many ways of informing the public but the board is a long ways from that process.

Ian Gray reiterated that 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. Mike Vendegna reiterated what John Shaver said that adopting and implementing standards is an excellent idea and long over due. Mr. Vendegna recommended that the trimming standards would be developed to the highest of today's industry guidelines using ISA and American National Standards. Vince Urbina requested that Mike Vendegna make copies of the recommended standards and send those to the board members as soon as possible. Mr. Vendegna agreed.

Mr. Urbina moved that the board move forward with the review of the existing ordinance, develop a 3 to 5 year plan to implement the new ordinance, trimming standards and possible continuing education credit requirements for licensed tree trimmers.

Motion adopted by the Forestry Advisory Board:    Yes 5                    No 0

### **Item 8: Adjourn**

Chairman Urbina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ina Gray moved and Mike Heinz seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna  
Grand Junction Parks Department – Forestry Maintenance Supervisor

