



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

February 4, 2005

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

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: None

Forestry Division Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests:

Item 2: Approve Minutes

David Gave brought to the boards attention an important item that was missing from the January 21, 2005 minutes. Dutch Afman was appointed, by unanimous vote, as the vice-chair of the Grand Junction Forestry Board. Ian Gray moved that the minutes shall stand corrected, Mr. Gave second, all approved.

Vince Urbina moved to approve the January 21, 2005 Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board minutes as corrected.

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

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

1. Mike Vendegna reported that tree removals are completed a month ahead of schedule.
2. Mr. Vendegna reported that planning for tree planting 2005 is under way. Crews are working on a tree availability list. Mr. Vendegna also stated the division hopes to have a brochure developed to hand out to customers at the time of a planting request. The brochure would have planting guidelines, species of trees available and contact telephone numbers. Mr. Vendegna stated that the forestry division crew members have been excellent in helping and supporting new ideas and proposals; David Bullen has been a true asset in implementing the new guidelines for street tree planting.
3. Mr. Vendegna reported that forestry crew member Dan Wiedrich has been instrumental in assisting Mr. Vendegna with landscape upgrade projects at the city cemeteries. Mr. Vendegna anticipates 6 new planting beds and the new cremation garden landscaping to be completed in 2005.
4. Mr. Vendegna reported he has been working with the city managers office regarding a proposal to relocate the forestry, horticulture and cemetery division to a proposed newly constructed facility at the city cemeteries.
5. Mr. Vendegna distributed to board members copies of the month end reports he submits to his supervisor each month. Mr. Vendegna stated this is an attempt to keep the board members more informed as to what the three divisions under his supervision are doing.
6. Mr. Vendegna reported the forestry division will have a booth at the upcoming Landscapes West Conference and trade show. Mr. Vendegna also stated that Allen Lundy will be conducting a class at the commercial applicators workshop; both programs are sponsored by the Colorado State Cooperative Extension.
7. Mr. Vendegna reported that Tom Ziola and Mr. Vendegna will be instructing class for the Master Gardener program in February.

Item 4: Arbor Day - 2005:

Mike Vendegna reiterated to the board that Arbor Day 2005 will be April 14th student program and South West Arborfest with be April 16. Mr. Vendegna said that the reminders / invitations have been sent to all the area schools. Vicki Beltran sends out a 3 x 5 card reminding schools that Arbor Day is just around the corner and to please put it on their calendars. Mr. Vendegna reported that forestry crew member Kory Jones has begun planning and preparing his idea to 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. Vince Urbina asked if Mr. Vendegna was planning to give-a-way seedling trees again this year. Mr. Vendegna was pleased to announce that Palisade Green House was once again growing the trees for Arbor Day and 6 different types will be available. The seeds for the trees to be distributed were collected from mature trees throughout the city by the forestry crews.

Item 5: 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 and other information distributed by Mike Vendegna. Ian Gray presented written suggestions as to his thoughts for upgrading and changing the ordinance. Mr. Gray felt the board should look at each section of the ordinance and at the appropriate place add pertinent sections of accountability. Vince Urbina stated he will investigate ordinances and trimming guidelines from other cities that may assist the board with wording and ideas. Ian Gray and Dutch Afman both agreed but stated it may take sometime to get a concept of this magnitude implemented. Mr. Gray feels the section 40 – 61 License required is the most logical to make changes in and would be the appropriate place to insert tree trimming standards. Mr. Urbina thanked Mr. Gray for doing this and suggested each board member take a copy of Mr. Gray’s recommendations, review them in conjunction with the existing ordinance, see if Mr. Gray’s suggestions apply and come prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. 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. Mr. Vendegna suggested the board develop a plan as to how many sections of the ordinance will be reviewed at each upcoming meeting and implement an action plan. Mr. Vendegna stated when an action plan is implemented and the ordinance review is complete he would like the board to review and update the licensing test that is currently being given to potential licensees.

Dutch Afman moved that the board divide the ordinance into 5 increments to be reviewed by each board member and that they come prepared to discuss the five sections at the next board meeting. After discussion and review Mr. Vendegna will compile the board’s recommendations and suggestions for each section, also that board members review sections 26 – 27 – 28 – 29 and 51 for the next board meeting. Second Ian Gray.

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

Item 8: Adjourn

Chairman Urbina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dutch Afman moved and Ian Gray 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