



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

April 8, 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: Mike Heinz

Forestry Division Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests: Kamie Long, Colorado State Forest Service

Item 2: Approve Minutes:

Vince Urbina moved to approve the March 4, 2005 Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board minutes.

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

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department:

1. Mike Vendegna reported that planning for tree planting 2005 is under way. Crews are working on a tree availability list and planting has begun.
2. 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.

Report from City Forestry Department – continued:

3. A huge planting project is underway at West Lake Skate Park. An anticipated 30 trees will be transplanted from the city nursery and 15 to 25 trees will be purchased.
4. Mr. Vendegna stated additional planting projects for the month of April will be tree planting at Wingate Park in conjunction with Wingate School. The Forestry division will plant all the trees and a contractor will plant the shrubs and perennials.
5. Mr. Vendegna reported that the full time tree watering program is underway. A seasonal employee has been hired to water 2” to 5” diameter trees from March to the end of October.
6. Mr. Vendegna reported the forestry crews are assisting with the construction of a new cremation garden landscaping at the city cemeteries.
7. Trimming and street tree planting is underway and crews are very busy.
8. Mr. Vendegna reported that all divisions under his supervision attended a team building program presented by Deletha Sabastian, the City of Grand Junctions training coordinator. Mr. Vendegna felt the day was extremely beneficial to all attendees.

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 will be April 16. Mr. Vendegna said that the invitations have been sent to all the area schools. Mr. Vendegna was pleased to announce that Palisade Green House was once again growing over 4,000 seedling trees to be handed out to all attendees while supplies last. Mr. Vendegna reported that he attended the City Council meeting April 6th to have the Council read the proclamation proclaiming April 14th Arbor Day for the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Vendegna distributed to the board the brochures that have been sent to all area schools, handouts that will be given away, cups, hats and shirts. Vicki Beltran was instrumental in the design and finding a contractor that could produce the cups on very short notice. Mr. Vendegna stated he was very proud of how the cups turned out and wished to thank Mrs. Beltran for all her hard work. Mr. Vendegna stated that preparations are ready for both events. Forestry crew member Kory Jones has done an excellent job with the design and construction of his idea to build a large tree, over 10’ tall, in the Lincoln Park Barn. Mr. Jones is also developing the entire program that will contain various elements of vandalism to the tree and Elmer will let everyone know how bad this is. Dan Wiedrich will be “Elmer the Elm tree” and teach the attendees how important trees are. It has taken a great deal of creativity but the forestry crew members have teamed up to once again develop an excellent program.

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 sections 40, 52 – 53– 54 – 55 and 56. Mr. Urbina suggested the board review and discuss each of the above stated sections and mark any changes and recommendations in the final recommendations to the ordinance.

- **Section 40 – 52 list of trees and plantings in public ways.**
No changes suggested

- **Section 40 – 53 Inspection of trees.**

Ian Gray recommended that there should be an additional statement at the end of the section stating the inspection procedure shall include that of improperly pruned trees.

Mr. Gray stated it should also make reference to the standards that will be adopted during this process.

- **Section 40 – 54 Planting of approved species**

Mr. Urbina presented to the board the “Homeowner’s Guide for choosing the best tree to plant along your city street. Mr. Urbina stated that this brochure is good and will serve the purpose until the time comes that a new list can be developed. No changes suggested at this time.

- **Section 40 – 55 Duty to replace trees.**

Mr. Urbina suggested that in the last sentence of the statement, tree shall be used in replacement there of up to a maximum of five inches in diameter. Mr. Urbina feels it would be impossible to acquire trees of this size. Dutch Afman recommended that part of the sentence be removed and the part stating the species of which shall be determined by the city manager remain. All agreed.

- **Section 40 – 56 Duty to trim trees.**

No changes suggested.

Mr. Urbina asked for any additional comments or discussion regarding the reviewed sections. Mr. Vendegna stated that due to concern from the board brought up at the last meeting regarding the ordinance review procedure. Mr. Vendegna contacted John Shaver, City Attorney, and distributed to the board an email Mr. Vendegna received from him outlining the review procedure Mr. Shaver recommended. Mr. Vendegna suggested the board members review the email and become familiar with the steps to take. Mr. Urbina asked that board members review the next five sections for review at the next board meeting May 6, 2005.

Item 6: 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 9: 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna

Grand Junction Parks Department – Forestry Maintenance Supervisor