



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

September 2, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Vince Urbina at 8:10 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Forestry Division Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests: Mayor Bruce Hill
Kamie Long

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dutch Afman moved to approve the July 8th 2005 Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board minutes, Mike Heinz second.

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

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

Mike Vendegna welcomed guest Mayor Bruce Hill and thanked him for taking the time out of his busy schedule to attend today's meeting. Vince Urbina reiterated what Mr. Vendegna and welcomed Mayor Hill. Mayor Hill thanked the board for having him and stated it is a goal of his and the City Council to be more involved and informed as to what the different departments and boards are doing.

Report from City Forestry Department continued:

1. CPRA fall conference will be coming to Grand Junction on September 27th to the 30th. Mike Vendegna stated he has been asked by the Director of the Parks Department to put together a one day maintenance seminar. This session will be held on September 27th from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. The focus of the program will be on the complete landscape. Designing the maintenance friendly landscape, turf maintenance, diagnosing problems and drip irrigation.
2. Mike Vendegna reported that he and forestry division crew members Ernie Valencia, Allen Lundy, Kory Jones and Tom Ziola will be attending the ISA – RMC annual conference from September 28th to October 1st in Fort Collins.
3. Mr. Vendegna stated he is in the process of developing the 2006 – 2007 budgets for the forestry, horticulture and cemetery divisions and has presented said budgets to the budget review team. Mr. Vendegna stated the division has requested one full time person for forestry and two full time employees, one in 2006 and one in 2007, for the horticulture division. Mr. Vendegna will report to the board the budget status as soon as he is made aware.
4. Mr. Vendegna reported the trimming operations are in full swing and August was one of the most productive months in recent years.
5. Mr. Vendegna met with designers and city engineers working on the Riverside Belt Way project. Mr. Vendegna stated he has reviewed plans and some plant recommendations and feels the project will be excellent. The landscaping will be similar to that at the Grand Junction Police Department. Trees, shrubs, perennials, wood chips and crushed granite ground cover are the tentative design.
6. Mr. Vendegna reported he has met with Palisade Green House regarding trees for Arbor Day 2006 and the possibility of contract growing trees for the forestry division. Mr. Vendegna was very impressed with the operation and prices. He will meet with Palisade Greenhouse in the near future to finalize arrangements.

Item 4: Western Slope Tree Care Workshop 2005

Vince Urbina reported that the agenda for December 8, 2005 workshop is in place and most of the speakers have been confirmed. Mike Kunz has been scheduled to be the instructor of the first half of the program. He will cover tree selection, fertilizing, trees and turf, etc. Mike Vendegna said Dennis Hill with Bookcliff Gardens is scheduled for an hour and a half class in the afternoon discussing shrub pruning, selection and care. Mr. Vendegna stated he would like to have an hour program on insects and Vince Urbina will discuss the Champion Tree program. Mr. Vendegna said he will report further information as it becomes available.

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

Vince Urbina opened discussion of the ordinance review at section:

40 – 61 – License Required.

(A) Mr. Urbina recommended the statement “forestry board” to issue license be removed and insert “city” due to the fact the forestry division issues the license. Ian Gray recommended the heading be changed to Commercial Forestry Standards and Licensing. Dutch Afman agreed and recommended we put that suggestion in the board’s areas to review.

Review of City of Grand Junction Ordinance chapter 40 vegetation – continued:

40 – 61 – License required – continued:

(B) Mr. Urbina stated he does not understand this section and would like to have Mr. Vendegna provide copies of this section of the ordinance to board members for the next meeting.

(C) No changes suggested.

(D) Mr. Urbina suggested the second sentence of this section be deleted.

(E) Ian Gray suggested this section be looked into as to the dollar amounts of insurance required are the right amounts. Mr. Vendegna suggested the board research the industry standards as to the right amount. Mr. Afman suggested the board contact the ISA as their recommended amounts. Mayor Hill suggested the board contact John Shaver the City Attorney and get his recommendations and guidance.

Ian Gray requested the board review the three additional paragraphs he would like to see added to this section of the ordinance F, G & H. these additional sections would address trimming city trees, topping trees and commercial trimmers must follow adopted standards. Discussion took place if a ban on topping could be added to the standards. Mr. Vendegna stated that it could be added to the ordinance if it was directed to the commercial trimmer and not the property owner. Mr. Vendegna recommends the board add this to the ordinance suggestions and rely on the City Attorney for guidance.

40 – 62 – Control of Dutch Elm Disease.

(A) Mr. Urbina stated the name of the fungus has changed and that change should be made in the ordinance.

(B) Mr. Urbina suggested this entire section be eliminated from the ordinance. This section would be too hard to enforce and is not pertinent to today's control of Dutch Elm Disease.

40 – 63 – Appeals from order of city manager,

No changes suggested.

40 – 64 – Failure to comply with notice; payment of costs.

(A) No changes suggested.

(B) No changes suggested

(C) No changes suggested

40 – 65 – Statement of costs; notice of hearing.

(A) Mr. Urbina suggested that hazard trees should be added to this section and the hazard trees be identified by a professional arborist consultant.

(B) Mr. Urbina suggested the board look into this section and refer to the City Attorney for assistance on this section and section (C).

40 – 66 – Service and notice of assessment.

No changes suggested.

After reviewing the last section, discussion took place as to the process to make the recommended changes. Mike Vendegna suggested that the board get direction from the City Attorney by reviewing his guidelines, develop a plan to present proposed changes to commercial trimmers and the general public.

Review of City of Grand Junction Ordinance chapter 40 vegetation – continued:

Mr. Vendegna foresees letters being sent to Green Industry professionals, public meetings, meetings with the City Attorney and eventually the City Council. Mr. Vendegna suggested that the board review and make recommendations as to the maintenance standards to adopt. Mr. Vendegna feels this is a huge undertaking and the board should have as much information and a plan in place before the public is brought into the picture. Mr. Urbina agreed. Mr. Vendegna requested that as many of the board members as possible assist with the letters, attend meetings and be involved as much as time will allow. All board members agreed to the suggestions and that this discussion with continue at the next meeting.

Item 6: Next Forestry Board Meeting

Vince Urbina asked board members if there were any conflicts with the next scheduled meeting October 7, 2005. There were no conflicts. David Gave moved to meet on October 7th, Ian Gray second.

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

Item 7: Adjourn

Chairman Urbina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Gave 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