



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

January 13, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chair Dutch Afman at 8:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Dutch Afman
David Gave
Ian Gray
Mike Heinz

Board Members Absent:

Vince Urbina

Forestry Division Staff Present:

Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests:

Kamie Long
Peggy Vaughn, Grand Valley Audubon Society

Item 2: Approve Minutes

No minutes available

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

1. Mike Vendegna reported that the forestry division has been truly fortunate to be able implement a new tree inventory in conjunction with the city's current GIS mapping system. Mr. Vendegna apologized to the board for not having minutes available and having updated information regarding the ordinance review and developing bylaws. The proposed tree inventory as well as his daily responsibilities have occupied all his time. The GIS tree inventory will include every tree within the park system to begin with, but will some day include street trees. Trees will be identified as per species, the diameter, height and condition will be determined as well as a cost factor for each tree. Mr. Vendegna stated this has been a dream of the forestry division for a very long time.

Report from City Forestry Department continued:

2. Mr. Vendegna reported the five forestry division and two horticulture crew members will be attending the Progreen Expo in Denver January 23 to the 27th.
3. Mr. Vendegna reported forestry crews assisted with snow removal, cleaning sidewalks and removing trash on Main Street and Two Rivers Convention Center.

Item 4: Western Slope Tree Care Workshop 2005 – wrap up report:

Mike Vendegna reported that the workshop was a huge success and the final registration total was 151. Dutch Afman commended Vince Urbina on the compilation and summary of the evaluations that were turned in. Mr. Afman stated, and Mr. Vendegna agreed, that the comments were very helpful. Kamie Long stated she has received a great deal of positive feed back from area cities' tree board members that attended the workshop. Mr. Vendegna stated he really appreciated the feed back it helps motivate himself and the forestry division crews to continue developing and hosting future workshops.

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

Dutch Afamn suggested the board post pone discussion of the ordinance review until Chairman Urbina can attend the meetings and due to lack of information to proceed. All board members agreed. Mr. Afman also suggested the same postponement take place for the bylaw discussion.

Item 6: Arborfest and South West / Arbor Fest:

Mike Vendegna introduced to the board Peggy Vaughn representing the Grand Valley Audubon Society. Mr. Vendegna, Peggy Vaughn and Vince Urbina meet in December regarding The Grand Valley Audubon Society participating in the City of Grand Junction's 2006 Arbor Day activities. At that time, Mr. Vendegna invited Ms. Vaughn to present to the board a proposal from the GVAS to participate in Arborfest and Southwest Arbor Fest in April. Ms. Vaughn gave a brief explanation of the Audubon Society, its purpose of education and a proposal to join in Arborfest activities in lieu of having a separate Bird Festival. Ms. Vaughn handed to each board member a list of four possible interactive ideas that may fit well with the activities of Arborfest.

- Home Sweet Home
- Trees as Habitats
- Every Tree for Itself
- Fine Art of Nesting.

Mr. Vendegna asked how long each activity takes and how many students each can accommodate. Ms. Vaughn said that each station can be adapted to fit our needs and the Audubon Society would bring as many volunteers necessary to run each station. Mike Heinz stated this proposal would work very well with the student program, Dutch Afman and Ian Gray strongly agreed. Ms. Vaughn said the Society would love to participate in both the Thursday, student, and Saturday programs. She foresees more hands on activities during the student program and an informational both on Saturday. Dutch Afman stated he feels that Ms. Vaughn's program as outlined would be a good fit and Mr. Afman looks forward to working with the Ms. Vaughn and the Audubon Society. Ms. Vaughn said both meetings, the one in December and today's, are very positive and looks forward to assisting with the development and being a part of the program. Mr. Vendegna recommends that Ms. Vaughn or another member of the Audubon Society conduct an indoor program as well as the outdoor stations.

Item 6: Arborfest and South West / Arbor Fest continued:

Mr. Vendegna also suggested both entities work together to develop the programs and also investigate the possibility of a live bird demonstration. Mr. Afman asked for a motion to accept Ms. Vaughn proposal for the Audubon society to join with Arborfest. Ian Gray motioned, Mike Heinz second.

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

Item 7: New Business:

Dutch Afman stated he would like to incorporate new business into old business for the board's consideration. Mr. Afman brought up two items for discussion. The first being the election of officers and the second, qualifications of members to the board as stated in the ordinance. Mr. Afman read ordinance section 40 – 26 Created; composition; terms; officers. Mr. Afman feels the board should look at this section of the ordinance and evaluate the categories each member fills. Mr. Afman asked that the board to be more diligent in following procedures in the election of officers. Mr. Afman would also like the board to conduct a formal review each year of license tree trimmers. Mike Heinz stated that if the board takes on the responsibility then this has to be enforced. Mr. Afman asked for a motion that the board consider his suggestions and continue this discussion at the next meeting or when there is a full board in attendance. Ian Gray motioned, Dave Gave second.

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

Item 8: Next Forestry Board Meeting

Dutch Afman asked board members if there were any conflicts with the next scheduled meeting February 3, 2006. There were no conflicts. David Gave moved to meet on January 3, 2006 Mike Heinz second.

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

Item 9: Adjourn

Vice Chairman Afman requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Gave moved and Ian Gray second. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department – Forestry Maintenance Supervisor