



***FORESTRY ADVISORY
BOARD MINUTES***

August 11, 2006

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

Roll Call

Board Members present: Vince Urbina
Ian Gray
Mike Heinz

Board Members Absent: Dave Gave
Dutch Afman

Forestry Division Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

Guests: Kamie Long

Item 2: Approve Minutes:

Vince Urbina moved to accept the minutes from the June 2, 2006 meeting. Mike Heinz second.

Motion adopted by the Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 3 No 0

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department:

1. Mike Vendegna reported that the new tree inventory, in conjunction, with the city's current GIS mapping system is under way and going very well. Mr. Vendegna stated that Ed Wacker, city surveyor, is not only inventorying trees but every structure, boundary and every irrigation head in all Parks Department maintained facilities. It's a huge task but Mr. Wacker is doing an excellent job. Mr. Vendegna will try to have an example map and report as soon as possible.
2. Mr. Vendegna reported the forestry division took delivery of a new 55 foot High Ranger aerial lift truck. The new unit is a replacement for an existing unit that will be traded in. Also a new spray truck is on order and will be put into service in spring of 2007.

Report from City Forestry Department – continued:

3. Mr. Vendegna reported that Forestry crews are heavily into general tree maintenance such as trimming, spraying, etc and things are going better than ever. The crew in charge of areas 3 & 4 are very close to completing phase 5 of a 5 year trimming program within those areas. Every tree, which amounts to thousands within these two areas, will have been trimmed.
4. Mr. Vendegna stated he feels strange stating that crews are gearing up for Christmas light installation for the holiday season, but they are. Mr. Vendegna is planning now for the purchase of new lights and crews assignments with the goal in mind to cut installation time in half.
5. Mr. Vendegna reported that the street tree planting program is completed for 2006. Mr. Vendegna stated crews will be planting trees in parks this coming fall and there are three large projects scheduled for October / November. Patterson Street Island, Red Lands Parkway Island, Canyon View Park Baseball field restroom area landscaping, and tree planting on North Avenue.
6. Mr. Vendegna reported the Forestry Division will no longer be growing trees from bare root stock and may someday stop planting trees at the city nursery. Mr. Vendegna explained that with all the additional work being added to the Forestry Division responsibilities, crews have less and less time to devote to the care the nursery trees need.
7. Mr. Vendegna reported that the Cemetery Administrative Assistant is expecting with twins, that's the good news. The bad news is she was in a car accident and has been restricted to bed rest for 3 to 4 months until the babies are born. Vicki Beltran has willingly taken over duties at the cemetery leaving her position with the forestry and parks divisions vacant. Mr. Vendegna asked the Forestry Board to be patient with him because he is doing his and most of Mrs. Beltran's duties.

Item 4: Forestry Board bylaw discussion:

Mike Vendegna stated that he has received the copy of the proposed bylaws he sent to the City Attorneys' office for review. City Attorney John Shaver made some changes to the proposed bylaws and sent them back to Mr. Vendegna for review and to make the changes. Mr. Shaver also called Mr. Vendegna stating he will review the changed bylaws and ordinance as soon as Mr. Vendegna returns them to him. Mr. Vendegna wanted to thank Mr. Shaver for his time and stated he found Mr. Shaver to be extremely helpful as always. Mr. Vendegna gave each board member a copy of the bylaws with Mr. Shaver's changes in red and the bylaws with the changes made. Mr. Urbina stated the board should accept the bylaws as received from Mr. Shaver. Mr. Urbina also stated he is confused regarding Article 2 – Appointment of Members section (A), the categories board members are appointed from. It is Mr. Urbina's understanding that one of the 5 members of the board is a permanent representative of the Colorado State Forest Service. The other Board members were under the same understanding. Mr. Vendegna stated he would make that clear in the bylaws and during the ordinance review process that change could also be made so that both documents were the same. Mr. Urbina agreed with Mr. Vendegna and asked that he peruse that process.

Item 5: Oak Scale

Mr. Urbina reported to the Board of an insect that was brought to his attention in a meeting in Denver. Mr. Urbina brought this problem to the boards' attention at last months board meeting but wanted to clarify that the name of the Oak Scale is Lecanium, Oak Scale.

Item 6: Update, Grand Junction Vegetation Ordinance:

Vince Urbina requested an update of any progress that has been made in the review process of the vegetation ordinance. Mike Vendegna reported that he has received an electronic version of the ordinance from the City Clerks office. He is in the process of comparing that version to the version the Forestry Board reviewed and is in the process of entering the suggested changes made by the Forestry Board. Mr. Vendegna hopes to have a draft completed within the next two months.

Item 7: Western Slope Tree Care Work Shop 2006:

Mike Heinz requested an update of the Western Slope Tree Care Work shop 2006. Mike Vendegna stated he had some good news and some bad news. The bad news is there will not be a Western Slope Tree Care Work Shop in 2006. The good news is the Forestry Division will be putting all its efforts in assisting the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension with the 2007 Landscapes West. Mr. Urbina stated he and Mr. Vendegna were approached by Dr. Curtis Swift with the idea pursuing Dr. Gilman as the featured speaker for Landscapes West in 2007. Discussions took place as to the over all program, Dr. Gilman's topics and how the city and Colorado State Forest Service could help. Mr. Vendegna stated that Dr. Gilman was the leading expert regarding trees and tree maintenance. Mr. Urbina, Dr. Curtis, Mr. Vendegna and members of the Forestry Division attended a conference in Fort Collins in which Dr. Gilman spoke and he was excellent. At that time it was brought up to bring Dr. Gilman to Grand Junction. Mr. Vendegna requested the support of the Forestry Board to cancel the Western Slope Tree Care Work Shop in 2006 and support Landscapes West and Dr. Gilman in February 2007. The Forestry Division would send a letter and a Landscapes West agenda to all those on the Forestry Divisions mailing list. The entire 3 days of the Landscapes West program will focus on trees and tree maintenance and Dr. Gilman will present the entire day on Friday.

Item 8: Resignation from the Board:

Mike Vendegna reiterated to the board that Dutch Afman has resigned his position on the Grand Junction Forestry Board. Mr. Vendegna recommended that the board host a recognition lunch for Mr. Afman for his dedicated service on the Forestry Board. Vince Urbina stated Mr. Afman will be missed and recognition for his help and support is truly in order. All the board members reiterated Mr. Urbina's sentiments. Mr. Vendegna stated he would organize the lunch and have a certificate of appreciation made. Mr. Vendegna will contact board members as soon as arrangements are complete.

Item 9: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 9: 15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Vendegna
Grand Junction Parks Department – Forestry Maintenance Supervisor