



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

December 7, 2007

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mike Vendegna at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kamie Long
 Mike Heinz
 Steve Gerow
 David Gave
 Bob Johnston
 Molly Pierce

Parks Dept. Staff Present: Mike Vendegna

Item 2: Swear in of New Forestry Board Members

Stephanie Tuin, City Clerk swore in all Board members to the Forestry Board.

Bob Johnston is in the process of being elected as an alternative member. Mr. Vendegna explained that Mr. Johnston will be able to vote in someone's absence.

Item 3: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the November 2, 2007 minutes. Kamie Long seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 4: Report from City Forestry Department

1. Holiday Christmas Lighting looks phenomenal this year. Five to six Forestry Division maintenance staff put lights up on Main Street, City Hall, Parks and Recreation office as well as in front of Suplizio Field all in the month of

- November. The Forestry Division is also experimenting with LED lights. Mike Vendegna has been instructed to do a proposal of switching to LED lights due to their longevity as well as being energy efficient.
2. Forestry Crew Members are in the middle of tree removal.
 3. New Equipment is coming in. The Horticulture Department will be getting a new sweeper which will make maintaining Main Street, the new parking garage on 5th as well as the underground parking lot at Two Rivers a lot easier. The Forestry Department will be replacing their old High Ranger with a brand new one.
 4. Three new Horticulture positions will be interviewed for during the beginning of January. Jerry Roberts, the Parks Supervisor, retired this year. Eddie Mort, a Parks Crew Leader has been hired on as the new Parks Supervisor. Eddie Mort's crew leader position is now open as well.
 5. Crown Point Cemetery which is located at I 1 /2 and 23 ½ Rd, will be having a lot of changes made to it. An agreement was made in 1970 to the City that it would maintain Crown Point as a "Country Cemetery" having little maintenance. Due to recent State Legislator pressure the "Country Cemetery" will now be renovated completely having a new fully automatic irrigation system, grass, signs, lighting and so forth. Mr. Vendegna expressed concern stating that the City currently does not hold water rights out at Crown Point, but is hoping that negotiations will be made with canal companies.
 6. The Parkway is way ahead of schedule and the City will be taking over the Parkway six months earlier than expected.

Item 5: Election of Officers

Mike Vengdegna opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mike Heinz nominated Dave Gave to be Chair. Kamie Long seconded the nomination. Dave Gave was unanimously selected as the Chair of the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Mike Heinz nominated Kamie Long to be Vice Chair. Kamie Long was unanimously selected as the Vice Chair of the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 6: Review of Bylaws

Dave Gave asked if there needed to be any changes to the current bylaws before it was given to the City Attorney for final review. Bob Johnston expressed concern about how City Council elects Forestry Board Members. Mr. Johnston stated that lay persons should be encouraged to be elected on the board to bring in new ideas. Mike Vendegna stated that this change needs to be made clear in the ordinance. Mr. Vendegna also suggested that a Forestry Division Representative as well as

the Forestry Chair person get together with City Council to further communicate on what the Board is looking for in board members. Mr. Gave asked Mr. Vendegna to research what other boards require in their bylaws as far as electing members, to clarify the boards current bylaws. Mr. Vendegna stated that one of the biggest problems in electing members is that hardly anyone applies. Mr. Vendegna suggested that in the advertisement it needs to be made clear that lay persons are included and encouraged to apply.

Mike Vendegna also stated that Bob Johnston's "alternative member" needs to be written in the ordinance and that he'd meet up with Stephanie Tuin about how to write it.

Item 7: Future Goals and Objectives:

Mike Vendegna reported that some future goals and objectives are getting the bylaws and ordinances finished and completed, reviewing the licensing process, as well as possibly creating a board that expands out to all of Mesa County. Dave Gave asked if Mr. Vendegna would find background information on how other boards were developed and any other suggestions to help get it started. Mr. Vendegna stated that he will do research and bring it to the board as soon as he could.

Mike. Vendegna suggested that the board looks at copies of previous notes on ordinance changes and review the bylaws item by item to create a complete and final draft. Dave Gave suggested that a deadline should be established to have the ordinances finalized. Mr. Vendegna stated that he would get all of his previous notes as well as a quick draft of the procedures that were given to follow from the City Attorney and have them ready for the board to review.

Item 8: New Business

Mike Vendegna made a list of all the Board Members with their contact information. Mr. Vendegna asked to review the list and make sure everything is correct. Kamie Long wanted to add her cell phone to the list.

Kamie Long stated that Tree City USA applications are due soon.

Mike Vendegna stated that Arborfest is around the corner and planning will start in January. Mr. Vendegna also stated that currently there are no program ideas for the Student Program, and that he's concerned because one of his key players, Kory Jones, will be moving soon. Mr. Vendegna stated that he is looking for new ideas for festivities this year. Mr. Vendegna briefly described Southwest Arborfest and the annual tree giveaway as well as the ArborFest Student Program which is held every year on the third Thursday in April.

Mike Vendegna also stated that he'd like to bring the Western Slope Tree Care Workshop back this year. Mr. Vendegna stated that he did not put on the Workshop last year because he joined Kurtis Swift from the CSU Extension Office to bring in Dr. Gilman to Landscapes West.

Item 8: Adjourn

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of January 4, 2008 and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant