



*Grand Junction Forestry Advisory
Board Minutes*

January 11, 2008

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kamie Long
David Gave
Molly Pierce
Bob Johnston

Parks Dept. Staff Present: Mike Vendegna

Board Members Absent: Steve Gerow
Mike Heinz

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the December 7, 2007 minutes. Kamie Long seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Department

1. The Department is expanding rapidly. Interviews have taken place on January 9th and 10th for two Horticulture positions, one Forestry position, three Sports Facilities positions, as well as one Parks/Riverfront position. Positions will be announced by January 14th.
2. The Horticulture Department has had some huge changes. The Horticulture Crew Leader, Tom Davis transitioned over to Parks Operations and a new Horticulture Crew Leader, Tim Wilkerson was hired on. The Horticulture Division will be asking for an additional 3 positions by the end of the month.

3. The Parkway will be opened six months ahead of schedule. Mike Vendegna mentioned that he'd like to take the Forestry Board on a tour of the Parkway as well as other areas of responsibility that the Forestry and Horticulture Division takes care of.
4. Crown Point Cemetery is also going to be fully renovated. A meeting was held which approved the Crown Point Cemetery renovation. It will roughly be a \$200,000 project.
5. The numbers of annexations for the Forestry Division are continuously growing. New Subdivisions, streets ect... are continuously being put in which means more areas of responsibility for the Forestry Division.
6. Forestry Licensing is underway and many of the Tree and Lawn Care Providers are already handing in the licensing requirements. Kamie Long suggested updating the Internet Licensing information as soon as it is accurate and up to date.
7. Tree City USA, and Growth Award applications were turned in.
8. A Job Fair will be held at the end of the month of January. The City will be doing a lot of advertising on the radio, T.V., newspapers etc... to try and get a higher number of applicants for seasonal positions.

Item 3: Old Business

Mike Vendegna stated that the alternate member proposal has been passed by the City Attorney and City Clerk and will go to City Council on January 16th. Kamie Long volunteered to present it to City Council along with Mike Vendegna. The alternate member position will be official by January 16th.

Mike Vendegna stated that Arbor Day is coming up fast. Mr. Vendegna stated that the board is always welcome to help with ideas and volunteer for the festivities which will be held on April 17th and 19th. Mr. Vendegna stated that cards will be sent out Mid-January to all the elementary schools to remind them of the upcoming festivities. Bob Johnston asked if there will be the seedling tree give-away this year. Mr. Vendegna stated that there will be around 4000 seedling trees this year and that he'd get exact numbers as well as a list of what varieties of trees will be given away.

Mike Vendegna stated that he has been asked to set up two community wide tree planting events to take place this year. This is the City's 25th year of being a Tree City USA and would like to make these two tree planting events big! One will be held at Eagle Rim Park, which is one of the major trail heads. The other one will be held in the Dog Park at Canyon View Park. A memorial might be placed for dogs that have passed away. Mr. Vendegna stated that he'd like to start advertising and planning as soon as possible for these events.

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 4: New Business

Kamie Long stated that Grand Junction will be hosting the 18th Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference this year and a date needs to be set to have that take place. Mike Vendegna stated that he'd get a date ready as soon as possible.

Mr. Vendegna stated that he is bringing back the Western Slope Tree Care Workshop this year which will be held sometime in December. Mr. Vendegna stated that ideas from the Board are always welcome as well as volunteering time to help for these two workshops.

Item 8: Adjourn

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of February 1, 2008 and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting. Kamie Long seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant