



*Grand Junction Forestry Advisory
Board Minutes*

February 1, 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
Mike Heinz
Steve Gerow

Parks Dept. Staff Present: Mike Vendegna

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the January 11, 2008 minutes. Mike Heinz seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Report from City Forestry Division

1. A committee called the "What If Team" was formed to come up with solutions to make the Parks and Recreation Department more efficient and successful. The committee is looking to possibly reorganize and restructure the entire the department. Mike Vendegna will be working on that for the next month or so.
2. The Forestry Division is into removals and by the end of February will be finished. 70 trees will be transplanted from the City nursery out to the Lincoln Park Golf Course, Canyon View Park, and Crown Point Cemetery.
3. Arbor Day is coming up as well as spring planting.
4. The Horticulture Division will be touring the new Parkway to figure out a game plan for the upcoming year.

5. Cemetery had a fantastic year making a significant amount of money over projection for 2007.
6. Forestry received a new high ranger.
7. There were seven new positions hired on for the Parks Department. Horticulture received two; Paul Conway and Linda Friesen. Sports Facilities received three; Mike Vig, Ryan Dennison, and Debbie Bradford. Parks/Riverfront received one; Frank Harvey.

Item 3: Old Business

Mike Vendegna stated that Arbor Day is sneaking around the corner and this year's goal is to have everything planned and ready ahead of schedule. Mr. Vendegna stated that they will be looking into having schools get involved and put on a play this year for the Arbor Day Student Program. Kamie Long suggested to have less outdoor stations with smaller groups which would help keep the students attention and help better organize. Reminder flyers have been sent to all the local elementary schools to come attend the Student Program. Mr. Vendegna briefly discussed Southwest Arborfest which takes place on Saturday, April 19th. The Forestry Department will be giving away thousands of trees to those who attend, and is also a great way to interact with the community about trees. Mr. Vendegna encouraged the Forestry Board to take part of this year's festivities.

Mike Vendegna and Camie Long went to City Council on January 16th to present the Alternate Board Member for the Forestry Board. Mike Vendegna stated that the Forestry Board has the approval to have an official Alternate Member. Now City Council has to approve and appoint the member. Stephanie Tuin made a rough copy of the revision to the ordinance talking about the Alternate Board Member.

Mr. Vendegna stated that a date has been set for the Western Colorado Community Conference for September 12th. Grand Junction will be hosting the conference this year and will possibly hold it at Two Rivers. Mr. Vendegna stated that the topic this year, according to Vince Urbina, will be the "Benefits of Trees." Mr. Vendegna stated that he would like to educate more on getting back to the basics of planting trees.

Item 4: New Business

Camie Long reminded everyone that the 7th Annual Boards and Commissions Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is February, 11th at 11:30-1:00 P.M. at the Two Rivers Convention.

Item 8: Adjourn

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of March 7, 2008 and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting. Steve Gerow seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant