



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

August 1st, 2008

**Meeting Called to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Chair David Gave
at 8:00 p.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

David Gave
Molly Pierce
Kamie Long
Bob Johnston
Mike Heinz

Forestry Board Members Absent: Steve Gerow

Guests:

Jim Shanks, Public Works & Planning Program Manager
Vince Urbina, Colorado State Forest Service

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Marc Mancuso, Interim Forestry Supervisor
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant

Item 1: Public Safety Initiative Presentation –Jim Shanks

Public Works & Planning Program Manager Jim Shanks presented information on the Public Safety Initiative. Please see attachment for more information on the presentation.

The Forestry Board further discussed questions they had about the Public Safety Initiative. Vince Urbina asked when the structure will outlive its usefulness. Jim Shanks responded, stating the plan is to build what they need with a 30 year projection rate, while the City grows overtime substations will more than likely be built in other parts of the City. Mr. Shanks stated the building spaces have been intricately designed to be in a specific area. By adding on to the building those specific areas will not be in a space of best use. Mike Heinz stated that a Public Safety Building is definitely needed and is glad to finally see it progress rather than waiting longer. Marc Mancuso encouraged the Forestry Board to take a tour of the current Police/Fire Stations to get a good picture of the current working conditions.

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the July 11th 2008 Forestry Board Minutes. Kamie Long stated that the date for the next meeting needs to be changed from July 11th to August 1st. Bob Johnston seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Old Business:

Riverside Parkway

Marc Mancuso stated that the Riverside Parkway Grand Opening will be on August 15th, four months ahead of schedule. Kamie Long asked how much involvement the Parks and Recreation will have with the opening ceremony. Mr. Mancuso stated Parks Operations will be taking down a high ranger for Touch a Truck, as well as helping Two Rivers set up tables and chairs. Mr. Mancuso stated the Parkway will be opened for public use by 2:00 P.M. that day.

Marc Mancuso stated he attended a “Take Over Meeting” on Wednesday discussing responsibilities for the Riverside Parkway to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Mancuso stated that Clarke and Company hope to have everything completed for Horticulture and Forestry Divisions to take over by August 15th. Mr. Manucso stated City engineers have done a great job in staying on top of contractors making sure trees are being planted properly or having trees replanted if they are not.

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference

Vince Urbina stated that this will be the 18th Annual Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference and is honored to have the City of Grand Junction host it for the second time. Mr. Urbina stated that he would like to have the Mayor or the City Manager do a quick welcome if possible. Mr. Urbina passed out brochures of the upcoming event showing the agenda. The cost will be \$30.00 per person.

Dr. Curtis Swift: *“Testing Trees- The Mesa County Arboretum*

Mike Vendegna: *“Putting the Best Trees Downtown”*

Ingrid Aguayo: *“The Good Tree Insects”*

Vince Urbina: *“Trees are Still the Answer for Downtown GJ”*

Grand Junction Downtown Tree Tour

Vince Urbina asked if the Forestry Department could compile a mailing list of contacts who would be interested in attending the conference. Mr. Urbina stated the target audience will consist of mostly Tree Boards and Municipalities however the public is also welcome!

Gold’s Gym Tree Update:

Marc Mancuso stated that he tried to contact the Gold’s Gym Manager to inform him that most of the trees planted at Gold’s Gym still have the burlap wrapped tightly around the trees. Mr. Mancuso said no one has returned any of his calls and that he will continue to try to get a hold of them. An email has been sent out to Earth Wise Tree Care informing them that they need to be licensed through the City to do tree work within City limits.

Item 4: New Business:

Update from the City Forestry Division

Marc Mancuso stated Randy Coleman was promoted to Crew Leader at Stocker Stadium to replace his previous position. Mike Pilling, part-time Forestry employee was then promoted to a full-time equipment operator for Forestry replacing Randy Coleman.

Interviews for the Parks and Recreation Director took place on July 28th and 29th. Mr. Mancuso stated there were 130 applications which were narrowed down to six candidates to be interviewed. Mr. Mancuso stated they have offered a position to one of the candidates and hope to find out soon if they have accepted. Bob Johnston asked when the proposed starting date will be for the Director. Marc Mancuso stated they are looking into having the Director start by mid September however it will depend on their current position and when they will be available.

Item 5: Adjourn:

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of September 5th, 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 5 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant