



***Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes***

October 14, 2016

Parks Operations Building

2529 High Country Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, Kamie Long at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham
Shirley Nilsen
Kamie Long
Elizabeth Neubauer
Teddy Hildebrandt

Board Members Absent:

Chuck Thompson

Guests:

Mike Lobato
Danny Bohrer

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Randy Coleman, Parks Supervisor
Darcy Austin, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to accept the August 25, 2016 Forestry Board Minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan Carter

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

Item 3: Discussion with guests Mike Lobato & Danny Bohrer on Invasive Trees

- Mr. Lobato stated that he has concerns in the Ridges about Cottonwood and Elm Trees that are very invasive (namely Siberian Elm's). This problem is devaluing land and open spaces and the trails in the Ridges are becoming invaded with Elms and Russian Olive. Mr. Lobato suggested getting volunteers, conservation corps to monitor these areas and spray to keep them from growing back, as invasive species like these can't just be pulled and walked away from. The Elms are next to stop signs and traffic lights and block visibility to citizens driving. These invasive trees take value away from homeowner's land and City property and there should be a plan put into place.
- Mr. Bohrer stated that when you trim back the Elms it just spreads their seeds and if you pull them they just come back stronger. Mr. Bohrer stated that he had spoken with Tim Moore who said they could get some funds where the City pays some expenses and the homeowner pays some expenses. Would like to see these trees added to the noxious weed list. In some areas gardens won't grow because they have too many seedlings trying to come up in them.
- Randy Coleman stated that the challenge is funding and to consider starting up a "Siberian Elm Coalition" similar to what the "Tamarisk Coalition" has done. He stated that the board can advise but can't fund it or supply the workforce. Randy Coleman also stated that the Elm is the 2nd or 3rd most prominent tree in our Urban Canopy, these trees were planted 50 to 60 years ago mostly because they grew quickly and are drought resistant.
- The Board suggested that they work with Mesa County or the State of Colorado to look at getting some of these invasive trees on the "Noxious Weed List". The Board also suggested organizing a group to begin eradicating the seedlings and talking to the "Tamarisk Coalition" about getting some grant money for the eradication of these invasive species. The Board also suggested that they be careful as they move forward to be sure they are taking steps forward and not backwards when it comes to the removal of these trees.
- Mr. Lobato stated that he has done research on the best method to remove these trees and has read a plan from an area in New Mexico that has a 20-25 year plan to get control over the Siberian Elms.
- Kamie Long asked that they both keep us up to date by coming to Board Meetings and let us know how/when we can help and that we already have a great mapping system for where certain problem areas are located. Susan Carter suggested that CMU or another college may have an "internship" that they could work with in order to get this "Coalition" up and running.
- Mr. Lobato stated that there should be a mailing put out in the utility bills warning people that this is not a desirable tree and that it should be pulled before it gets too big. Mr. Lobato is going to send some links for the Board to read through and would like the Board to come out with him and counting "backing" them as they go through the process. The Board stated that they are happy to help but that Mr. Lobato and Mr. Bohrer to begin by locating volunteers, working with other non-profit organizations and finding grants or other sources of funding.

Item 4: Upcoming Tree Care Workshop

- The Board discussed contacting all potential vendors/sponsors as soon as possible and then meeting on October 18th to finalize everything and get an invitation out to the licensed tree care providers. Several vendors have already stated that they are interested but we will get everything finalized later this week.
- Randy Coleman stated that Justin Drissel stated he would be happy to “assist” with anything if needed.
- Attach with the Tree Care Workshop a letter reminding our licensed tree care providers that they will need 3 CEU’s to receive their 2017 Forestry License. Renewal Applications will be mailed out after the training on December 8, 2016.

Item 5: SmartYard with Elizabeth Newbauer

- With her father’s health issues things became difficult in July and all though judging did take place she wasn’t able to get before council. Randy Coleman said we will need to revisit this after the workshop in December to see what we should do going forward.

Item 6: Forestry Update

- Next month will be Shirley Nilsen’s last month on the Board so the Board will keep Elizabeth as an alternate member and look to get a new member who has a passion about trees and possible some landscape experience as that is currently missing on the board.
- Holiday lighting is going in downtown.
- Halfway through winterizing all the irrigation systems in City Parks.
- Ordinances are really close, once they have one more meeting they will bring them to the Board to look over.
- Teddy Hildebrandt announced that the City of Grand Junction received the 2016 Gold Leaf Award.
- WCTCC (Western Colorado Tree Care Conference) is interested in coming to Grand Junction in 2017.
- Teddy Hildebrandt is now Vice President of the ISA Board.

Item 7: Adjourn

The next Forestry Board meeting will be held on November 3 at 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Neubauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Teddy Hildebrandt seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Darcy Austin