



## *Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes*

*January 9, 2009*

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

### Roll Call

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

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor  
Marc Mancuso, Stadium Crew Leader  
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Senta Costello, Community Development Dept.  
Michelle Hoshide, Community Development Dept.

### **Item 1: Approve Minutes**

Dave Gave moved to approve the December 5, 2008 Forestry Board Minutes. Steve Gerow seconded the motion.

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

### **Item 2: Update from the City Forestry Division**

Marc Mancuso stated that all of the Interim positions have rolled back to their normal positions. Mr. Mancuso enjoyed his time as Interim Forestry Supervisor and was thankful to be part of the Forestry Board. Mike Vendegna thanked Marc Mancuso for doing an incredible job. Mr. Vendegna felt that his time as Interim Director for Parks and Recreation was a wonderful opportunity.

Mike Vendegna stated that crews have been busy with snow removal. A group of employees will be attending ProGreen and Utah Green which provide training opportunities for employees on topics such as turf, tree and irrigation to name a few. Marc Mancuso stated that there are two employees who will be taking their ISA Arborist testing as well as ISA Municipal Arborist testing.

### **Item 3: Process of Community Development/ How Landscape Plans Go Through/ How To Refine the Planning Process**

*Special Guests, Senta Costello and Michelle Hoshide from Community Development Department*

Senta Costello explained to the Forestry Board the process of how contract plans go through the Planning Department. Ms. Senta stated the Planning Department focuses on site obstructions, plant size and insures plants are on the list of approved plants. Ms. Costello stated that they have not looked above and beyond that because the lack of tree expertise. As of Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> the Planning Department started enforcing state requirements, requiring that all landscape plans must be stamped and signed by a landscape architect. Ms. Costello stated that she hopes this will help reduce improper plantings and poor planting sites. Ms. Senta further explained that at the tail end of the project the Planning Department requires that prior to signing off on the final approval of the project they have to have a letter from a landscape architect which states that the site was planted per the approved plans and that any substitutions made are appropriate. Senta Costello and Michelle Hoshide stated that they welcome any input and knowledge to help with the process.

Marc Mancuso asked if planting substitutions can be made on a short notice. Senta Costello stated that during a site check, if plantings are off just a little they don't usually require contractors to make any changes unless if it is a major problem or is completely off from the plans. Mike Vendegna asked what authority the City has to change the plans if they strongly feel that there may be a better alternative. Ms. Costello stated that the City can only recommend and give contractors suggestions unless if it is in a situation that would cause a site distant problem or safety issue. Steve Gerow asked how many local landscape architects there are locally. Ms. Costello guessed that there are only four. Mike asked how many plans come through the Planning Department office. Ms. Costello stated she currently has 30 files on her desk; there are 8 other planners that have roughly the same work load.

Bob Johnston suggested of coming up with a sheet of information which shows recommended plant specifications for the Planning Department to refer to as well as providing that information to contractors. Mr. Johnston suggested taking a look at the specifications from Dr. Kurt Swift who is with the CSU Extension Office. Senta Costello stated that the Planning Department provides contractors a full packet of information and their major concern is that they will be over loaded with information. Mr. Johnston suggested refining the specifications providing the most basic and important facts.

Senta Costello stated contractors have to list out their planting procedures on landscape plans. By looking at recommended planting specifications and techniques, the Planning Department will be able to easily approve or disapprove plans by giving them recourse to go back on. Senta Costello stated that the approved planting list needs to be updated and that she would send the list to Mike Vendegna to look over. Ms. Costello stated that by providing information in contractor's packets is a good start. Steve Gerow stated that it will be hard to break old habits and this may be a slow process. Mike Vendegna suggested to the Forestry Board to take this on as a project. Marc Mancuso stated that a good plan has been established and suggested the Forestry Board review and condense Kurt Swift's specifications before the next Forestry Board meeting.

### **Item 4: New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**Item 5: Adjourn:**

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of March 6th, 2009 and asked for further discussion before adjourning the meeting. Steve Gerow seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman  
Grand Junction Parks Department  
Administrative Assistant