



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

February 13, 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
Bob Johnston
Steve Gerow

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant

Item 1: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the January 9, 2009 Forestry Board Minutes. Steve Gerow seconded the motion.

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

Item 2: Update from the City Forestry Division

Mike Vendegna stated that he'd like to encourage the Forestry Board to visit the City of Grand Junction Forestry Web Page at www.gjcity.org under the Recreation tab. The web page shows the 2009 Licensed Tree Care Providers, power point presentations from the Western Slope Tree Care Workshop and much more!

Mike Vendegna stated that he was fortunate enough to have been promoted as Parks Superintendent. Currently Mr. Vendegna is covering both the Superintendent and Forestry Supervisor positions until the new Forestry Supervisor position is filled. The new Forestry Supervisor hired will then lead the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board. Mr. Vendegna stated that there have been seven internal applications and are hoping to have interviews in a few weeks.

Mr. Vendegna stated that the Parks Department has undergone some reorganization in the past year. The Department looked into moving employees into where they really wanted to be, where their abilities and desires are. The Department created all salaries equal (previously the forestry division received a different pay rate than parks operations etc...). By creating equal pay it opened up huge opportunities for

the Department to do employee broad banding. Now parks operation crews are open to help sport facility crews etc...

Mike Vendegna stated that the Forestry Division is gearing up for the planting season. The Forestry Division is also developing a plan to do a City tree inventory. The Forestry Division is looking into getting new equipment however, the Forestry Division is being very fragile with money due to the economy.

Item 3: Landscape Specifications/Approved Planting List Discussion

Dave Gave suggested to wait to discuss the Landscape Specifications and Approved Planting list until the whole board and new Forestry Supervisor are able to attend. Bob Johnston suggested to the Forestry Board to condense down both lists and only include critical information such as planting techniques and have that information ready to discuss at the next board meeting. Mike Vendegna stated that it would be great for the Forestry Board to make recommendations and then have the Forestry Division compile the information to create a short list for the Planning Department to add to their packets for contractors. Mike Vendegna stated that his major concern was with the Approved Planting List that the Planning Department was using. Mr. Vendegna stated that that list needs to be condensed and only include plants that contractors can actually get their hands on. Mike Vendegna also suggested having the tree list categorized by shade or ornamental trees rather than by water zones and also include tiny description of the tree to state basic information to look out for that particular tree. Steve Gerow stated he likes the list and the detail provided, but it does need to be narrowed down a bit. Mr. Gerow also stated that there are other trees and shrubs that really should be added. Mr. Vendegna stated that it may be good idea to include other packets of information for the Planning Department and City Hall to hand out such as "Tree Care Tips" and "Winter Watering." Mike Vendegna encouraged Dave Gave to go to the Parks and Recreation Board and present the project to them.

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. Molly Pierce seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant