



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

March 6, 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
Kamie Long
Bob Johnston
Steve Gerow

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

Item 1: Approve Minutes

Bob Johnston moved to approve the February 13, 2009 Forestry Board Minutes. Molly Pierce 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 the Parks Department will be having interviews on Thursday, February 19th to fill the Forestry Supervisor position. Seven internal candidates will be interviewed. Three equipment operator positions (Forestry, Horticulture and Parks) have opened up to internal and external applicants. Mr. Vendegna stated that the three positions are full-time, non-benefited and only guaranteed until the end of December. Mr. Vendegna stated that they are also in the process for hiring seasonal employees for the summer. Last year the Parks Department had roughly 20 applications, this year there are over 180 applications.

Mike Vendegna stated that the Parks Department will do their best on being extremely frugal with the budget due to the declining economy and have already made several large cuts within the budget. Mike Vendegna stated that the cemetery building will be underway sometime this year. Mr. Vendegna stated that they are using new processes such as value engineering which is looking thoroughly through architect plans and finding ways to make changes that will help cut costs. Mr. Vendegna stated that one example of value engineering is the change of plans with the cemetery building. By moving the building to face south instead of east will save about \$60,000-\$70,000 by just taking away some curb and gutter.

Mike Vendegna stated that the Parks Department has developed an on call system where there will be one person on call for seven days a week. Mr. Vendegna stated that their goal is to raise the standard in service but lower expenses. Mr. Vendegna stated that Christmas lights are still being removed as well as fixing any broken Christmas lights. Planting season will be underway soon.

Mike Vendegna stated that the Forestry Division would like to update the City tree inventory. The Parks Department is looking into buying handheld GPS units to survey each tree which will then be enter into the Parks inventory database. Mr. Vendegna stated that he'd like to get Vince Urbina and Kamie Long with the State Forest Service who have had experience in tree inventories, to help get the Forestry Division started with the inventory.

Item 3: Landscape Specifications/Approved Planting List Discussion

Mike Vendegna stated that he would like to get the Forestry Boards recommendations for approved plants for the Grand Valley, and then run it by the Forestry crews for their input and suggestions. Kamie Long suggested beginning the planting list with a fresh new start. Mrs. Long also suggested not putting in high water zone trees as well as ground covers and flowers. Bob Johnston stated that he will try and meet with Curt Swift with the CSU extension office to go over Curt's recommendations. Steve Gerow stated that he will also try and go through the current list and highlight his recommendations as well as bring forth other trees that are not listed. Kamie Long suggested including a list of trees that do not do well in the Valley and explain why. Mrs. Long suggested to the Board to read the first seven sections of the Planting Techniques and bring their thoughts and recommendations to the next 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. Bob Johnston seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant