



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

April 3, 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 Superintendant
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant
Randy Coleman, Forestry Equipment Operator
Bubba Bullen, Forestry Crew Leader
Willie Berg, Forestry Equipment Operator

Item 1: Approve Minutes

Kamie Long moved to approve the March 6, 2009 Forestry Board Minutes. Bob Johnston 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 introduced Tom Ziola, the new Parks Supervisor who will oversee the Forestry, Horticulture and Cemetery Divisions. Tom Ziola stated that he is very excited and thankful for having the opportunity to be part of the Grand Junction Advisory Forestry Board. Mr. Vendegna also announced that Molly Pierce had been promoted to a full-time non-benefited position with the Horticulture Division. Tom Ziola's previous position as Forestry Crew Leader is being reviewed by the City Manager and waiting for approval to hire.

Tom Ziola stated that Arbor Day is coming up fast! The goal this year was to simplify the program, making it more cost effective and time efficient for not only the City but for the School District as well. Mr. Ziola stated that three teams of two will be visiting a total of 17 schools (3rd grade classes, total of 1,100 students), educating them on the importance of trees. Each student attending the program will receive a seedling tree, coloring book, pencils and book markers. Mr. Ziola welcomed the board to come along and help out. In conjunction with the Arbor Day Student Program, the City will be putting

on South West Arbor Fest, Saturday April 25th at the Lincoln Park Practice Field from 11:00 AM-5:00PM. The Forestry Division will be handing out 3645 free seedling tree. Mike Vendegna stated that on April 11th they will be going to City Council to read the proclamation for Arbor Day. Mr. Ziola stated that next year, the Forestry Division will be looking into possibly combining efforts with the National Arbor Day Foundation to do their 5th Grade Poster Contest.

Tom Ziola stated that the Parks Department has been able to provide a lot of input and participation for the Colorado reconstruction project. Mr. Ziola stated the contractors, Urban Farmers, have been doing a great job and have kept the Parks Department well informed.

Tom Ziola stated that the Parks department is also involved with the Main Street reconstruction and will be providing their ideas to recreate the downtown area. Mr. Ziola stated that he is always open to the Forestry Boards suggestions.

Tom Ziola stated that the Forestry Division have been trimming and stumping trees. Planting season is underway soon and the Forestry Division is gearing up. They have already bought several trees at Talbot Farms. Twenty two ornamental pear trees have been planted out at Horizon Drive to bring more color and decoration.

Memorial trees will be planted for two council members who will be leaving their positions; Jim Doody and Doug Thomason.

Bubba Bullen stated that the Forestry Division have been raising trees on 7th St. near Main St. Tom Ziola stated that due to the lack of involvement on projects, the trees were planted too deep in the grates. It has become a maintenance nightmare therefore they had to take the trees out, raise them up and replant them.

Tom Ziola stated that a 45 foot light pole around the baseball field at Pomona/Kronkright has fallen down due to rot. All the light poles will be taken down for safety precautions.

Dave Gave stated that there are several large cottonwoods that need to be removed at the cemetery. Mr. Ziola stated that he would like to have them removed prior to Memorial Day.

Tom Ziola stated that the Forestry Division has met up with Vince Urbina and Kamie Long with the State Forest Service to begin a tree inventory. Mr. Ziola stated that he would like a more precise tree inventory by having it surveyed with GPS and entered into the tree database GBA.

Item 3: Landscape Specifications/Approved Planting List Discussion

Approved Plant List

Kamie Long suggested to organize the plant list by water zones and keep only tree and shrub information. Mrs. Long stated that ground covers, flowers and vines are not as essential. Bob Johnston met up with Curt Swift with the CSU Extension office to go over both Curt Swifts Landscape Specifications as well as the approved plant list. Bob Johnston stated that Curt Swift will review both lists and condense it down to his recommendations. Mr. Johnston stated that Curt will be joining the Forestry Board next month to review his suggestions.

Kamie Long stated that before the next meeting she would like to receive everyone's notes by the end of April. Mrs. Long will combine them with hers to bring to the next Forestry Board meeting. Kamie Long will email the four pages of the current plant list of which everyone needs to review and send back to her with her recommendations.

Landscape Specifications

Tom Ziola stated that Mike Vendegna's goal would be to have City Council adopt the landscape specifications to have clear defined guidelines for contractors. Kamie Long stated that the specifications are great but are not reasonable. Mr. Ziola suggested rewording the specifications making it easier to understand and more simplified. Mrs. Long stated that it needs to be written for not only contractors but for homeowners as well. Mrs. Long stated that the specifications need to be reorganized; there are categories that need to be subcategories etc... Bubba Bullen suggested that the specifications be organized by steps of what you would do when you are planting a tree. Mr. Bullen stated that it needs to be firmed up, simplified instead of jumping around. Tom Ziola asked Bubba Bullen and Randy Coleman to take a look at the specifications, bring their suggestions and send it to the Forestry Board. Mrs. Long asked that it be mailed out for the Forestry Board to review and use it as a starting point for the next Forestry Board meeting. Mrs. Long stated that there is great value in Kurt Swifts Specifications but the Forestry Board needs to change it for our use.

Item 4: New Business

Tom Ziola stated that Mike Heinz called him and stated that due to the nature of his business he was unsure of how many meetings he will be able to make this summer. Mike Heinz wanted the Forestry Board to decide whether his position should be opened or not. Dave Gave asked when his term expired and to base the Board's decision on when that might be.

Dave Gave will not be attending the next Forestry Board meeting. Please contact Kamie Long with any questions or concerns.

Item 5: Adjourn:

Dave Gave reiterated the next meeting date of May 1st, 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 5 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant