



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

July 10, 2009

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kamie Long
Bob Johnston
Molly Pierce
David Gave

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Tom Ziola, Forestry Supervisor
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant

Item 1: Approve Minutes

Dave Gave moved to approve the June 10, 2009 Forestry Board Minutes. Bob Johnston seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by the Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 2: Update from the City Forestry Division

Tom Ziola briefly updated the Forestry Board on the Main Street Uplift Project. Mr. Ziola stated that he has been involved with the Main Street Uplift Committee to protect the best interest for Forestry and Horticulture as far as maintenance goes. Horticulture and Maxicom employees have also been involved imputing their expert suggestions. Mr. Ziola stated that Main Street construction will be on a very aggressive schedule, starting in January and finishing in June of next year.

Tom Ziola stated that the number of free trees given out to the public for the annual Arbor Day Tree Give-Away will be reduced to cut spending costs. Mr. Ziola stated that in years past they were giving away several trees per person to try and get rid of them. Mr. Ziola stated he would like to reduce the numbers of trees and limit one to two trees per person.

Tom Ziola stated that all jobs that come open within the City or are newly created positions will be reviewed closely. The Parks Department is also trying to work smarter across divisions. Mr. Ziola stated that it is working very well.

Tom Ziola stated that the irrigation at the Horizon Dr. and I-70 interchange was damaged when utility crews bored through the lines. After a long tedious process Horticulture crews identified the problem and are in the process of correcting the situation. Trees and shrubs are being hand watered by Forestry crews.

Tom Ziola stated that the grass on the Southeast corner of the Riverside Parkway Interchange has been removed due to the high salts in the soil (15-20 MMHO's). Due to watering the salt in the soil has bleached out and killed the grass. The plan will be to redesign that area by adding rock to the areas where the grass has died. Mr. Ziola stated that they will be planting a more aggressive grown cover on the berms to help keep the woods chips from blowing away.

GIS forestry inventory is on hold at the moment. Mr. Ziola stated that currently, resources to complete the project are out of reach (money and time).

The Forestry Board discussed on whether to find a new Forestry Board Member to take Mike Heinz's place or to let his term run out. Dave Nave stated that Mike Heinz's term will be up this November. Mr. Nave suggested having a letter of resignation be written from Mike Heinz to formalize the process. Mr. Nave asked Jessica Norman to review the bylaws to find more information on how the process will work in finding a replacement.

Item 3: Landscape Specifications/Approved Planting List Discussion

Kamie Long stated that she really liked the "Science of Planting Trees" document by the CSU Ext. Office and suggested possibly combining that document with the information that has been created by the Forestry Board. Mrs. Long stated that the "Science of Planting Trees" can only be used without changes or additions; however, she stated that the information in the document will need to be changed. For example site considerations or tree selection will need to be included and other items will need to be taken out. Mrs. Long stated that she will try and get permission from the Master Gardner Training Office at CSU in Fort Collins.

Kamie Long stated that she pulled a lot of information from the "Fort Collins Nursery Guide" to fill in the salt tolerances for each tree in the Suggested Planting List document. Vince Urbina, with the State Forest Service looked it over and he is happy with the information. Vince will take it to Chelsea Nursery to have look it over as well.

Kamie Long stated that she listed trees that are from zones 3 to zones 7 as well as keeping the trees that would grow in the Grand Valley and that are also easy to find Kamie Long added a description explaining the salt tolerance numbers. Mrs. Long suggested adding "High, Med, or Low" and "Intolerant" to fill in the areas where she could not find a salt tolerance number. Tom Ziola and Steve Gerow suggested only labeling the trees where there is a clear idea as to salt tolerances and leave the uncertain salt tolerances blank. Dave Nave stated that he would like to seal this project as soon as possible. Tom Ziola thanked Kamie for taking the time to find the salt tolerant information.

Item 4: New Business

Tom Ziola asked the board if the Western Slope Tree Care Workshop would be something that the Board would want to pursue this year. The Board agreed to possibly skip this year to better concentrate bigger priorities.

Item 5: Adjourn:

David Gave reiterated the next meeting date of August 7, 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 4 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Grand Junction Parks Department
Administrative Assistant