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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda
2529 High Country Court, Grand Junction CO 81501

July 2, 2020
8:30 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 4, 2020 Meeting

Forestry Updates

a. Windstorms Continue to Pile on Work
   i. Forestry Work Request History January through June
      2020 = 263 work requests
      2019 = 192 work requests
      2018 = 202 work requests
      2017 = 200 work requests
      2016 = 184 work requests
   ii. 33% increase from past 4-year average / 33% full time staff reduction
   iii. Addressing work requests from July 2019 / 150 work orders in system

b. Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (to be held in the Lincoln Park Barn)
   i. Forestry board invitations:
      1. 7/14 - 4:30pm Focus Group
      2. 7/15 - 12:30 - 2pm Stakeholder Interviews
   ii. Public forum
      1. 7/14 - 6 - 8pm
      2. 7/16 10am - 12pm

c. Inventory Work With New CMU Seasonal Intern

d. Arborist Testing Update
   i. July 1 test, zero attendees
   ii. Remaining 2020 testing opportunities = 9/9, 10/21, & 12/2
   iii. Outreach to contractors

e. Park Vandalism and Outreach

New Business

a. Updating recommended tree list

Public Comments

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, August 6, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.

Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes

June 4,2020
held Via Zoom Meeting

Item 1: Meeting came to Order by Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Member, at 8:33 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Kamie Long Vince Urbina Susan Carter Mollie Higginbotham Paul Morency Bennett Boeschenstein
Absent Board Members:	Tom Ziola
Guests Present:	Tony – CSU Extension Intern
Parks & Recreation Staff Present:	Rob Davis, City & Open Space Supervisor Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Item 2: Approve Minutes for May Forestry Advisory Board Meeting with following changes
Susan Carter is listed twice, remove one.
Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes with the change.
The motion was seconded by Paul and approved unanimously.

Item 3: Forestry Updates
h) Due to a previous engagement Vince updated the board about ISA testing dates and COVID Impacts.

- Test scheduled for July 1, 2020
- Students will wear masks
- Spacing is already required between test-takers
- Scheduled at the B.5 road facility

- The only unknown is if that facility will be re-opened on July 1.

Item 2: Approve Minutes from March meeting

- Kamie Long made a motion to approve minutes, with the spelling of Kamie Long's name corrected (add e throughout). The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously.

Item 3: Forestry Updates

a) Mayor Duke Wortmann is the new Liaison to the Forestry Board, Chuck McDaniel is the alternate.
b) Major Wind Damage
    - Lost a large tree at the Cemetery
    - A number of downed trees blocking sidewalks
c) 239 calls this year, and a steady increase
    - Steady increase from month to month
    - Increased admin support is helping address the increased call load
d) Tree Planting
    - Between 70 and 80 were planted in parks, the rest were street trees.
e) Plant Health Care Update
    - Ash Treatments
        i. The ash trees are in rough shape from native bore beetles
        ii. The Plant Health Care Specialist has done 138 systemic bark treatments.
        iii. Rainbow Tree Care demonstrated the new injection system. Injections are labeled for a two year treatment, though they don't have a good way to measure effectiveness.
        iv. The Extension has seen an increase of dead tree calls potentially due to the dry winter/spring and the hard freeze in April.
        v. Green Ash trees seem to be hit harder than the White Ash Trees.
    - Elm Scale
        i. The Plant Health Care Specialist has been treating Elm Trees
        ii. Seems to be affecting American Elms
        iii. Vince Urbina noted that the cultivar piece seems to be getting lost in the inventory. He would be willing to devote some time to identifying cultivars with resistance to scale
    - Siberian Elm Leave Miner
        i. Mostly aesthetic, very prevalent in Montrose and beginning to show up here
    - Wasp Gall
        i. Can lead to die back of upper limbs
    - Honeylocust Plant Bug – active now

- Cambistat and new tree plantings
    i. Treating new tree plantings with cambistat to slow upper growth and encourage root growth
    ii. It is a soil drench which has been mixed in a 5 gallon bucket to ensure proper application ratio
- Additional Pressures
    i. 30% Budget reduction (including utilities)
    ii. Parks division is down 7 Full Time positions (2 in irrigation alone)
    iii. Compounding the problem is less water, and less eyes on the system as a whole.
    iv. Lack of water is a threat to overall tree health in the City.

f) Quarterly Report
- 896 trees maintained
- 60 trees trimmed
- 138 trees planted
- 148 trees removed
- 550-trees treated, though our staff member hasn't gotten everything into the software and estimates the number to be closer to 750
- 150 backed up work orders, the oldest is from July of 2019
- Higher priority jobs come in which prevent us from tackling older less urgent requests
- Forestry Division is also down with a FT on paternity leave.
- June 15th will have in intern starting to do work on the tree inventory
    i. If anyone on the board would like to spend time on tree identification or showing other jobs in the industry it could really enrich the internship opportunity.

g) Business Sign and Tree Conflicts
- There will be a time when trees and signage are in conflict, but the goal is to give the trees a chance to grow above the signs and provide long term aesthetic and shade.
- Additionally staff have worked to be precise, maintaining only trees in the City right of way, regardless of any past maintenance.
    i. One particular situation, after talking with legal refused to prune a tree that had been previously maintained. The property owner indicated they would be getting their lawyer involved.

h) DRIP social media clip
- Highlighting balancing the advantages of having trees while using water responsibly.
- Future projects include a video about weeds,

Item 4: New Business

a) Updating recommended tree list
- Grand Valley Canopy will do first draft and forward to the board or the second draft.
- Moving away from breaking down by water usage though still planning to include that information.

b) Update on ISA Test
    - The test is July 1, the deadline for the application is June 15.
        i. Only 8 test takers will be allowed.
        ii. Kamie Long and Vince Urbina will proctor the test.
        iii. There will be another test in the fall
c) Tree Stories
    - The idea is to create a living history around significant trees, or trees with fun stories.
    - Put them on the City Website and the Grand Valley Canopy Website
    - Promote at Southwest Arbor Fest (perhaps follow up on seedlings that have been gotten at previous Arbor Fest events).
    - Having the story about the tree adds additional value to the tree.
    - Use Colorado Tree View or Tree Collections to add points of info
    - Tom Ziola will begin collecting tree stories.
d) Virtual Chainsaw Training for Women
    - Send out this opportunity with the ISA test reminder to help make people aware.

Item 5: Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 6: Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 10:00 a.m.

Item 7. Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 8:30am at **Hawthorne Park**

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little