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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda

Virtual Meeting – contact Allison Little (254-3861) for meeting details

December 3, 2020

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from November Forestry Advisory Board Meeting

Forestry Updates

- a. Open Space Trail System Development
- b. Forestry Mulcher and River Trail - Vision and Single Track Trails
- c. Finished Fall Plantings
- d. Backlog of Removals and Work Requests
- e. ISA International Conference
- f. PROS Master Plan and Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan
- g. Tree City USA
- h. Contractor Licensing - 20201; ISA Certified Arborist Competency
- i. Forestry Board Review of Circumstance Document
- ii. Need to Update Materials for Licensing

New Business

Public Comments

If you have questions please contact Chair, Susan Carter at 244-1850 or Robert Davis, City Forester at 254-3825.

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

Confirm 2021 Meeting Schedule

January 7, 2021 - 8:30 am



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

*November 5, 2020
held Virtually*

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:38 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham
Kamie Long
Vince Urbina
Tom Ziola

Absent Board Members:

Mollie Higginbotham
Paul Morency
Bennett Boeschenstein

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Davis, City Forester & Open Space Supervisor
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Approve Minutes for October 1 Forestry Advisory Board Meeting

Vince Urbina made a motion to approve the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Tom Ziola and approved unanimously.

Forestry Updates

a) 10.25.20 snowstorm;

- Brian, Cody, Rob, and Randy cleared streets from 6pm – 10:30pm Sunday Night.
- There was an onslaught of calls the following week.
- Elms seemed to be the worst followed by mulberry and pears.
- The City Manager allocated \$100,000 to help with the response. Contracted with Alpine Tree Service, T4, and Monkey Business to assist with grapple work, chipping, and other storm response.
- Tracking all the addresses in a Google Map with fields to allow data entry for other information (hangers, grapple work, chipper ready) and completion date.
- Finding it difficult to draw the line between city-owned and public trees; in many neighborhoods the neighbors would just pile all the branches in one or two spots. As a result there has also been a lot of private (even backyard) tree limbs cleaned up.
- Grapple loads are being taken to the compost site at Mesa county; chip loads are being dropped outside the Parks yard.

b) Fire Station #6 Landscaping - planting 16 b&b trees.

- c) Aquaponics Plantings
 - Planting in groups around Sherwood park.
 - Once the trees are pulled out of the bed, the hydroton shakes out pretty well.
 - Vince Urbina suggested Rob present on his experience growing and planting the aquaponics trees.
- d) Holiday Lights
 - DDA provided money for renting lifts; Jamie Boda has been coordinating the installation
 - Storm response created an opportunity for other staff to be involved in the installation
- e) Tiara Rado Open Space
 - Project funded through CARES Act for \$50,000 to be spent by the end of the year.
 - Planning on some trail building and parking lot delineation.
- f) Winter Tree Removals
 - 250 trees flagged for removal
- g) Contractor Licensing
 - Discussion around 2021 and exemptions or denials
 - i. What if a person takes but fails the test? Can we provide an extension if they show a plan to retake the test?
 - ii. Currently Licensed company doesn't meet the ISA experience requirements
 - iii. How do we address hiring an ISA Arborist as a consultant?
 - 1. How do follow up on that
 - 2. What proof do they provide that they were present on the job
 - Board members indicated a general comfort level with instituting a grace period and adding language that indicated companies could submit an appeal to the Board to have their specific situation considered.
 - i. Firm but Fair review process including evaluating work via field inspection
 - Board members elected to meet as a sub-committee to further consider specific policies and guidelines for proceeding with 2021 licensing and will report at the December meeting.

New Business

- a) Kamie Long advised the board that Dana Coelho had been chosen a Vince's replacement at the Colorado State Forest Service. She will be located in the Broomfield Office.
- b) Susan Carter shared with the Board that the CSU Extension plant sale was successful in light of the Covid accommodations.
- c) Rob plans to plant in the Aquaponics bed again utilizing some of the lessons learned from this year's crop.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 6: Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:04 a.m.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 8:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

11/20/20

Grand Junction Forestry Licensing; ISA Certified Arborist Competency Requirement

Grand Junction Municipal Code Sections

8.32.110 License required.

(a) No person shall engage in the business of cutting, pruning, trimming or removing, and/or spraying of trees (collectively tree maintenance) in the City without first obtaining an annual license from the Forestry Board authorizing the person to engage in such business. Tree maintenance licenses may be issued to a person or to a business entity. If the person who completes the examination in accordance with GJMC 2.36.030 for or on behalf of a business entity leaves the employ of the business entity, then another responsible person shall be required to take and pass the examination within 14 days. A person taking/passing an examination for or on behalf of a business entity shall not be deemed to be a licensee after he/she leaves the employ of the business on whose behalf he/she took the examination. A person may hold a license only if he/she complies with all of the conditions of licensure; failure to continuously maintain compliance shall cause the license to be void.

2.36.030 Powers and duties.

The Forestry Board shall act as a reviewing body for the purpose of determining professional qualifications and competence to engage in the business of cutting, trimming, pruning, spraying or removing trees by giving written, oral and practical license examinations. The Board shall recommend to the City Council adoption of rules and regulations pertaining to the tree service business in the City, and it may hear complaints from any citizen of the City, including any of its own members, relating to a tree service business. Upon receipt of a complaint and after informing the licensee of the complaint and giving the licensee a chance to be heard, the Board may suspend a tree service license for up to 60 days or may revoke such license.

Requirement for ISA Certified Arborist for Licensing

Towards the end of 2017 the Forestry Board and City of Grand Junction began notifications to licensed tree services that a new competency standard would be put in place for all licensed tree services allowing contractors a period of three years to adjust to this future standard (information within 2018 contractor renewal letter and noted within Forestry Board minutes 11/2/2017) .

Starting January 1st of 2021, the Grand Junction Forestry Board will be requiring that all tree services show proof of employment of at least one International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist on staff to act as the licensee of that company. Companies failing to meet this new requirement for competency will not be issued a tree service license. Below are points of consideration that will allow contractors to submit an official request for review of any circumstance that have prevented contractors from meeting this requirement:

- Efforts being made to take ISA Certified Arborist exam, but failing to pass exam
 - o Request for Forestry Board review of circumstance

- Grace period may be approved by the Forestry Board allowing time for an additional testing opportunity
 - Required continued field inspections of company's completed tree work by member of Forestry Board until competency requirements are met
- Not meeting minimum years of experience requirement from ISA and unable to test
 - Request for Forestry Board review of circumstance
 - Grace period may be approved by the Forestry Board allowing time for contractor to meet ISA experience requirements
 - Required continued field inspections of company's completed tree work by member of Forestry Board until competency requirements are met
- Hiring of consultants / employees to assume role of licensee for company
 - All licensees must be an employee of the company they are representing
 - Licensees of a company must be employed for at least 20 hours per week and actively engaged in inspection of field work to ensure work is meeting arboricultural industry standards
- New forestry license applicants without ISA certified arborist competency
 - Request for Forestry Board review of circumstance
 - Grace period may be approved by the Forestry Board allowing time for contractor to meet ISA experience requirements
 - New applicants may begin the process of licensing with the City by first passing the City's in-house written test
 - Company must provide evidence that they are taking steps to meet ISA certified arborist competency
 - Required continued field inspections of company's completed tree work by member of Forestry Board until competency requirements are met
- Extenuating circumstances
 - Request for Forestry Board review of circumstance

Forestry Meeting Schedule

January 7, 2021

February 4, 2021

March 4, 2021

April 1, 2021

May 6, 2021

June 3, 2021

July 1, 2021

August 5, 2021

September 2, 2021

October 7, 2021

November 4, 2021

December 2, 2021