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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda

2529 High Country Court - Conference Room

February 2, 2023
8:30 AM

Call to Order

Agenda Copy

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from January 13 Meeting

Forestry Updates

New Business

Public Comments

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

If you have questions please contact Vice Chair, Vince Urbina at 250-1923 or Robert Davis, City Forester at 254-3825.

GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY BOARD
AGENDA

Park Operations Office
2529 High Country Court, Grand Junction CO 81501
Thursday February 2nd, 2023
8:30 AM

1. Call to Order

2. Approve Minutes for January Forestry Board Meeting

3. Public Comments

4. New Business (Vince Urbina unable to attend today's meeting)

    a. Urban Forestry Management Plan (Lance Gloss – Senior Planner Community Development)
        i. Update from Lance
        ii. Forestry Survey – 524 responses as of 1/30/23
        iii. Grand Junction top performing tree list
        iv. Zone district canopy cover goals
    b. Arbor day - 4/22/2023
        i. Tree seedling delivery
            1. Form launch Tuesday 4/11/23
            2. Delivery days Wednesday 4/19 and Thursday 4/20
        ii. Seedling list
        iii. Agenda review
        iv. Container silent auction
    c. Licensed tree contractor and temporary staff agency use
    d. Demo day- Saturday March 18th 10am – 1pm

5. Forestry Updates
    a. Environmental justice grant
    b. Tree removals as of 1/6/23
        i. 125 trees removed (up from 79)
            1. 2,114.85 inches = 1,057 new trees (up from 1,247.75 inches = 624 new trees)
        ii. 129 removal pending
        iii. 164 stumps pending
    c. Holiday light removal – starts 1/30/23

6. Continued Business
    a. Review of chapter 8.32

7. Adjourn

8. Next Forestry Board Meeting: Thursday March 2nd - 8:30 am

If you have any questions contact chair, Kamie Long at 970-248-7325 or Robert Davis, City Forester at 970-254-3825

Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes

January 13, 2023

Meeting called to Order by Vince Urbina, at 8:33 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Joseph Chandler Bill Cooper Mollie Higginbotham Brandon Kanwishcer Dan Komlo Kamie Long Vince Urbina Chuck McDaniel
Board Members Absent:	
City Staff Present:	Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space Jenny Nitzky, Sustainability Coordinator Lance Gloss, Planning and Community Development Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Called to order by vice chair at 8:33am

Approve Minutes
Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Chandler and carried unanimously. (After the minutes were approved, Kamie noted that the arboretum available as a workshop location is the CSFS arboretum.)

Introduction of New Board Member
Brandon Kanwisher introduced himself to the board. He has a background in bioengineering/ botany and plant health. He is ISA certified and currently working with Alpine Tree Service as their plant health care manager.

Jenny Nitzky, the City Sustainability coordinator introduced herself to the board. She is out of the Community Development department and covers a wide variety of topics.

Environmental Justice Grant
Jenny and Rob are working on a Colorado Environmental Justice Grant for disproportionately affected census blocks. The State has identified areas where improvements can be made. Jenny and Rob have identified an area that appears to be a good candidate for grant funded planting.
Jenny and Crew Leader, Brian Wrich, went through this census block area and identified 258 spaces where tree lawns are vacant. This grant would be to pay for contracted planting and one year establishment of hand watering with a group of species (coffee tree, locust, hackberry, elm, or catalpa, for example) which staff believe could thrive after an establishment period, without a dedicated watering system.

The board supports the idea of this grant and wondered if there was concern because there would be no additional funds for long term maintenance. Staff is hoping to demonstrate this is a viable way to increase canopy to build a case for a longer-term city funded project in the future.

Mollie Higginbotham made a motion to support the grant proposal. The motion was seconded by Joseph Chandler and carried unanimously.

Board members wondered if the city would install city-owned irrigation in ROW areas. Rob advised the board that the I70B improvements may include a change in irrigation, so that would be test for that kind of solution.

Forestry Board Chair Nominations
Vince Urbina, Dan Komlo, and Bill Cooper declined their nominations. Kamie Long was elected Chair by acclamation.

Grants
Rob talked with the Board about the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) grant. He has submitted a proposal, just short of $2,000, to create a downtown tree walk/arboretum. The WCCC welding program is going to create aluminum tree (oak) leaves with a number on it. These can be riveted to tree grates or put on a stake in beds. One larger sign with a QR code taking the user to a digital map could also be part of the project. Tanya Travis' group is also willing to volunteer to help with installation.

Xcel Foundation reached out and asked us apply for their Foundation Grant. The grant proposal we submitted is for $8,000 and includes a couple of plantings. At Pomona one of the big buildings has a south side that has irrigated turf, but no shade trees, so working on Arbor day planting to get kids involved with trees as well as identifying areas at Canyon View surrounding the sports fields where trees would provide shade for spectators watching field events.

Urban Forestry Master Plan
Lance Gloss reviewed the plan goals with the board. Goals include: Diversify and Expand the Canopy, Conserve Water Without Compromising Tree Health, Extend the Benefits of Trees Equitably, Achieve Adequate Staffing and Budget for Forestry Activities, Educate the Public and Build Support for Urban Forestry, Manage Trade-offs Between Planting and Protecting Trees, and Integrate Trees into Relevant City Decisions

Board members wondered about using the word “conserving” water. Recently use of water was used as an argument against trees. Board members support the goal as long as language is very clear about being water wise and the long term goal of increasing shade which reduces the water needed.

Lance shared with the board that the survey has had a lot of responses which is encouraging. There have been some contacts from the development community with concerns that this plan is going to be a tool to press upon the private property rights of people. The timing is unfortunate because this survey is unrelated to the landscape code. This work has been planned for multiple years. It is good to get a wide variety of feedback, so we appreciate feedback from the development community and we want feedback from people who wanted seedlings, and participated in the Ash Treatment program so that the feedback is well rounded and representative of the community as a whole.

Canopy cover goals

Most plans have a goal of a particular percentage. Rob shared with the board an idea of taking into account the land use type. And then averaging those percentages for a plan goal. Lance has prepared 3 proposals with overall goals of 20.4%, 19.5% and 17.4%.

The percentage would be an average based on specific canopy cover goals Based on land use types of airport, commercial, industrial, mixed use, parks and open space, Residential High (density), Residential Medium, Residential Low, Rural Residential, and right of way (which includes rivers).

The plan includes a tree list and Rob asked the board to help add descriptions to the tree list. Kamie suggested creating a google document so that everyone can work in the same document. The board wondered if we should be tailoring the list to the trees that are available, however Rob is hoping that the list will help drive the nurseries to have different species available.

Forestry Board Logo

Kody Gentry has reworked the logo idea and is back with options for the board to give them more options to consider. The board reviewed a number of options and chose Tree option #2, with Border option #1, using the word location of #1.

Secondary Employment

Rob talked with the board about a request by an arborist to have secondary employment. In previous entities where Rob has worked the employee has signed a code of conduct that provides guidelines for what is and is not allowed as an employee. Kamie Long made a motion to accept the code of conduct. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higginbotham and carried unanimously.

Champion trees

Rob asked the board to be on the lookout for new submissions that need to be measured for Champion Tree submissions. All current champions also need to be measured this year. Kody Gentry is entering the Champion trees as data points in Lucity. There is a form to fill out so the tree can be verified by Colorado State Forest Service staff, then submitted to the Champion Tree Coordinator.

Arbor Day
The Agenda is mostly the same as last year. Board members feel strongly that the planting demonstration is a valuable component and would like to add it back in to the day's activities. This year there will be a seedling distribution. It has been really helpful to have Master Gardeners and Board members help with the distribution and would like to plan on that help again this year.

Forestry Updates
Staff is in tree removal season, 80 trees have been removed (which equals about 1248 inches). There are 190 removals pending and 148 stumps pending. It is about 99% ash removals. There are a lot of planting requests coming in to replace the removals.

Staff will begin removing holiday lights at the end of this month.

Staff are working out a schedule to incorporate the treatment of 13" – 24" trees into the schedule.

The board decided to hold off on further review of Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code. Once the Forestry Master Plan is adopted that may drive updates to the code.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:31 am

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist