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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda

2529 High Country Court - Conference Room

September 1, 2023
8:30 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from August Forestry Board Meeting

Public Comments

New Business

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

12/11/2023 - 5pm

Update from Education Committee

Farmer's Market

Real estate / General Homeowner Tri-fold

Review of Forestry Webpage

Zoning Code

Review of Chapter 8

Guidelines for General Contractors and Tree Removal

Forestry Rules and Regulations

Aerial Rescue

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

Other Items to Discuss

Forestry Updates

Private Ash Trees Treated 393 (up from 377)

Christms Lights and Fall Planting on the Horizon

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

October 5, 2023 - 8:30 - 10am

Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes

August 1, 2023

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Joseph Chandler Bill Cooper Mollie Higginbotham Brandon Kanwischer Dan Komlo Kamie Long Vince Urbina
Board Members Absent:	
City Council Liaison:	Cody Kennedy
City Staff Present:	Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space Jason Martinez, Administrative Support

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:29 am.

Approve Minutes
Kamie Long made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vince Urbina and carried unanimously.

Public Comment - NONE

New Business
Farmers Market
Lighter crowds at most recent market. Rob updated Board that 6' X 3' banner continues to move toward production. Mention of holding a contest or distributing popsicles. The "Large Stature Tree" handout seems to be the most popular. Discussion of expanding online mapping of large stature trees. Followed by the inclusion of an online link on handout. Residents still inquiring about elm seed bugs; however, inquiries have diminished. Jeff Piper new to Tri River CSU Extension office. Jeff will be focused more on commercial inquiries and Mollie on residential inquiries. Next Education Subcommittee meeting scheduled for August 24, 2023, at 10:30 AM. Board members continue work on the trifold brochure, still a work in progress.

Forestry Updates

Right Way Property and Wildlife Management

On July 25, 2023, Right Way Property and Wildlife Management cut limbs from a tree located on Texas Avenue. Subsequently, the limbs were left on the roadway. Grand Junction Public Works was later dispatched to the area. Upon discovery of the limbs, cones were placed in the area. The following day, Rob Davis contacted the company to ascertain why the limbs were not removed. Reasons provided by the company were not justifiable. No type of citation was issued to the company. Forestry Board has authority to act. Issues such as this, may affirm the needs to establish written expectations. Rob mentioned some municipalities do create rules and regulations for tree service companies. The Board can make recommendations to City Council on rules and regulations. In 2017, a rules and regulations document process started. Randy Coleman and previous Boards began work. Kamie Long made motion for Rob Davis to send formal warning letter to Right Way Property and Wildlife Management outlining issues arising from actions taken by the company on July 25, 2023. Vince Urbina seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Code

Rob Davis will be meeting with the City Attorney's Office on 8/1/2023 to discuss Chapter 8 of the municipal code. The Attorney's Office recommended the Board begin discussions on when licensed tree services should be required for developers. A tree survey is required to be ordered by developers to identify significant trees. Where significant trees are located on the site, no fewer than 30% of the significant trees shall be preserved during development. Trees included on the suitable plants list that have a diameter exceeding 15 inches and at least fair condition shall be considered significant. Tree surveys must be completed by a certified arborist. It may be necessary to increase penalties for developers that fail to protect at least 30% of significant trees. Developers might elect to pay penalties as opposed to incurring the cost of tree protection. Vince Urbina inquired if any city arborists have been asked by developers to discuss building plans. Rob doesn't believe the city has been contacted by a developer. The city doesn't have a landscape architect on staff. The Planning Department has asked for feedback from Rob on landscape plans previously. Current rules do not prohibit the owner from doing what they want on their lot. Only after an application for development has been submitted do lot requirements become a factor. Cody Kennedy mentioned that comments made about the Forestry Department during the Council's workshop outlining Emerson Skate Park were complimentary. Rob Davis will place a draft of the rules and regulations document that was started by previous Boards on a Google drive. Board members are encouraged to make suggestions on additions/revisions. The definition of a "tree" will need to be determined for a contractor guidelines document.

Board Bylaws

Board term limits apply except for the seat representing the Colorado State Forest Service. Board considered the benefit of assigning a seat specifically for a representative of the Colorado State University Extension Office. Assignment of the seat would require an amendment to bylaws. Discussion about expanding the Board to eight members allowing for a CSU Extension Office representative or continuing with seven-member Board. Brandon Kanwischer made motion to begin process for inclusion of CSU Extension Office representative on Forestry Board. Bill Cooper seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

New Business
Next Intermountain Forest Council meeting will be held in Grand Junction. A date for aerial rescue training has not been set. Forestry Department has completed 446 work order as of July 25, 2023, compared to 400 as of July 25, 2022. 205 public work requests received as of July 25, 2023, compared to 98 as of July 25, 2022.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned by acclamation 10:02 A.M.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting – September 1, 2023, 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Martinez, Administrative Support