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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda

2529 High Country Court - Conference Room

November 7, 2024
8:30 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from October Meeting

Public Comments

New Business

Board Appreciation Invite: 12/9 - 5PM - CMU Ballroom

Chapter 8 Update: Jamie Beard, CAO

Tree Protection Violations

Review of Licensed Contractor Trimming at 648 26 Rd

Licensing Checklist

PHC on Licensed List

Tree Seedling Survey Update

SWAF Sponsorships

Other Items to Discuss

Forestry Updates

Holiday Lights

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

Hydroton Plantings

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

December 5, 2024

Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board
Minutes

October 3, 2024

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Bill Cooper
	Mollie Higginbotham
	Brandon Kanwischer
	Dan Komlo
	Kamie Long
Board Members Absent:	Scott Beilfuss
	Joseph Chandler
	Mollie Freilicher
Guests Present -	Tanya Travis
City Staff Present:	Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
	Jamie Beard, Assistant City Attorney
	Sarah Kennedy, Communications Specialist
	Allison Little Administrative Specialist

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:32AM.

Approval of the September Minutes

Brandon Kanwischer made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Mollie Higgenbotham and carried unanimously.

Public Comments – None

Seedling Survey Results

Sarah gave an update on the seedling survey results so far. 101 responses have been submitted. Generally, people from 2023 and 2024 are responding. Respondents have been planting and there does seem to be a desire for supplemental information. Overwhelmingly people want the delivery program to continue, and some people have volunteered to help with the program. The survey is open for another week, and Sarah has sent a reminder email. Once the results are downloaded, we'll get more information on the written responses.

Farmers Market

The Board talked about the Farmer's Market. People are still bringing lots of questions and having storage in the parking garage was really helpful. There have been lots of requests for the Main Street Arboretum. Board members are already looking forward to having some forestry specific swag and other outreach items to get people connected with the IRA grant activities.

Code Review

Jamie Beard talked with the board about the ongoing code review project. In general, contractors seem to be insured at levels higher than required by the code. Jamie surveyed other cities similar to Grand Junction in size and population, as well as the smaller municipalities in our area and found a wide variety

of codified language. Many cities require contractors to have insurance, but don't specify for tree work, some don't list any insurance requirements in the code. Some list worker's compensation insurance as required by the state. Many even codify automobile insurance limits. Jamie noted that some cities include language about not re-issuing license for up to 2 years after revocation and offered that for the Board's consideration for Grand Junction code changes. Regarding insurance limits, Jamie will compile some language which is comparable to the majority of what she's seen. The Board felt comfortable with the idea of requiring one million for each occurrence and two million in aggregate.

On average, there are more Cities handling worker's compensation insurance using the language "as required by State statute" (which allows waivers) than not. Jamie Beard explained to the board that it could be legal for the City (as a home rule municipality) to exceed the state requirements. There are local concerns, state concerns, and mixed concerns (state and local) though usually you can be more strict than the state. Board members discussed changing limits and insurance requirements. Board members wondered about the added burden on smaller companies and how to balance that with protecting homeowners who may not know or think to ask for insurance. Jamie encouraged the board to work to educate the public about checking insurance and thinking about limits specific to the kind of job for which they are hiring the company A minimum limit may not be enough coverage for a large job (really tall tree, etc).

In general, the board is in favor of raising the bar and requiring worker's compensation insurance for the protection of both employee and homeowner, using a phased approach. The board feels strongly that absent members should be able to weigh in and delayed voting on this at this time. Jamie will draft language so that the board can review in advance, and a decision can be made. Kamie Long shared that she will miss the November meeting due to the State Forest Service meeting; her vote is to require worker's compensation insurance.

Regarding language for quantifying the Certified Arborist Requirement, the prosecutor was comfortable with language stating "An Arborist who is licensed must be physically accessible on site upon request" which would prevent companies from using their buddy in Florida as their certified arborist. If the arborist is not going to be physically on site, the board could require the arborist must provide a written summary of the work that is to be performed.

Kamie Long gave board members an update on the new member interviews that were held. Mollie Higgenbotham is term limited, Brandon did not reapply, Dan was renewed, Mollie F was renewed, Tanya Travis was chosen and Earl Perry (owner of Mission Ready) was chosen. Kamie also shared with the board that the Western CO Tree Conference is in Montrose, and she is looking for more participation. The conference should provide the opportunity to get five or six continuing education credits.

Rob Davis advised the board that the IRA grant training will be held in Grand Junction.

Adjourn by acclamation at 10:30 am.

Next Meeting – November 7, 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist