



*“To achieve a cleaner and more beautiful community through the education and involvement of its citizens”*

## Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

### Minutes

January 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Commissioner Allison Watters  
Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator  
Joan Ledbetter, KRFB Chairman  
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager  
Ben Winkelman, ECO Center Director  
Pam Roberts, KRFB Board Member  
Georgia Burns, KRFB Board Member  
Bob Henderson, KRFB Board Member  
Thomas Kislak, KRFB Board Member  
James Asbury, KRFB Board Member  
Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director

Guests: Ms. Julie Smith, TRED Executive Director

#### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Joan Ledbetter. She asked the members to review the minutes from the November 15, 2021 meeting. Bob Henderson made a motion to accept the minutes as written with Thomas Kislak seconding the motion.

The 2021 annual report was reviewed. Yearly totals are:

- 47 events
- 765 volunteers
- 13,215 pounds of trash
- 132 trees recycled

#### Programs and Events:

- January Programs and Events

##### MLK Service Day

- 25 volunteers participated for a total of 81.5 volunteer hours. 97 bags were removed with 570 pounds of trash at 6 different locations.

#### Bring One for the Chipper

- Boy Scout Troop 30 from Shannon, GA unloaded all 181 trees, which were recycled by local fishermen. 56 seedlings were distributed; the remaining 44 seedlings will be planted at the City Nursery on Black's Bluff Road.

#### Kingfisher Trail Homeless Camp Removal

- Two residents from Mount Aventine, Susan Carlson and Andy Bemis, removed 37 bags of trash with 740 pounds collected for a total of 25 volunteer hours.

#### City Arboretum Mulching Project

- 61 GPSTC Cadets from Georgia Highlands College as well as Berry College students participated. This project netted 183 volunteer hours. Mulch was provided by the City of Rome Public Works Division.

#### Old Business:

- In reference to the KRFB/Ball Corp partnership, some restaurants may not participate due to cost. Aventine/Blossom Hill/Honeymoon Bakery will continue to use as they can bulk order for their businesses.
- Two Bald Cypress trees were planted at Burrell Creek by the City Street Department. Funds were provided by International Paper and Atlanta Gas Light to compensate for trees lost during the gas line project.

#### New Business:

- KRFB and TRED will have a joint First Quarter Clean Up on February 5th from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at the GE Trailhead. There will be a joint clean-up every quarter on the first Saturday of February, May, August, and November. All locations will be announced at a later date.
- Arbor Day will be on Thursday, February 17th, at 1:00 pm in the parking lot behind Synovus Bank. Redbuds and dogwoods will be planted in various locations in downtown Rome.
- The FFA clubs at Rome High and Rome Middle are looking for projects that they can participate in the week of February 26th. Hannah Bagley is looking for suggestions. Ashley Hamby is the sponsor.
- Earth Day 2022 will be focused on beautification projects (i.e., mulching projects, tree maintenance).

#### Discussion:

Commissioner Watters discussed how our local code enforcement encourages reduction of littering in the City and County. Ordinances are in place to address these issues, however the punishment of these by the judicial system are lacking. Chris Jenkins stated that if people begin seeing a more forceful act against litter in the way of fines, there would be a decrease in offenses. Ben Winkelman addressed the group on how Cobb and Chatham Counties were

carrying out their fine process; and they also utilized peace officers who are transitioning into retirement for environmental investigation. We will be adding Glen Rubin, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, to the KRFB board. We will begin working in conjunction with their investigations to clean up City and County right of ways. Ben Winkelman surveyed a beaver dam behind the Spires that was over littered to the point that beavers were incorporating plastic and styrofoam into their dam structures. He would like to bring this to the attention of the citizens to understand the effects of their actions.

Commissioner Watters addressed Hannah Bagley about holding community-wide clean-ups and Hannah Bagley informed the group of the Great American Clean Up that KRFB will be registering in this event. Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation will supply all the clean-up materials needed to facilitate 1,000 volunteers. Hannah Bagley stated this was a lofty goal, however Commissioner Watters stated that this is obtainable if we all work together. Commissioner Watters suggested there be a subcommittee that will be made of multiple organizations and leaders within the City and County.

Next meeting date will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at the Rome-Floyd Eco Center by Hannah Bagley.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sophia G. Swann*

Sophia G. Swann, Secretary