



City of Rome Tree Board

Minutes

March 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

PRESENT: Hannah Bagley, KRFB Program Coordinator
John Hendrickson, Tree Board Chairman
Ernest Watson, City of Rome Arborist
Chad Hampton, City of Rome Street Department Director
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager
March Hardin Thornton, Parks and Rec. Special Projects Manager
Keith Mickler, Floyd County Extension Coordinator
Eddie Elsberry, Berry College Environmental Compliance Director
Brian Roberts, Environmental Compliance Manager
Georgia Burns, Tree Board Member
Carolyn McGuinness, Tree Board Member
Pam Roberts, Tree Board Member

GUEST: Jake Hagar, South Rome Alliance Executive Director
Jordan Allen, GIS Technician Planning and Zoning

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by John Hendrickson. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Reports:

City of Rome:

Chad Hampton reported that in January and February, 64 trees were removed, 27 were installed, and there were 688.5 hours of tree maintenance. Arbor Day was successful. In the future, he would like for the Tree Board to be more involved with locations for Arbor Day and Tree selection.

Brian Roberts reported that 21 trees were planted. They are working on hazardous trees. Some will have to be removed. He is working on Earth Day plans.

Floyd County:

Mary Hardin is working on plans for a National Arbor Day celebration with International Paper on April 29th. Mary Hardin, Michael Skeen, Seth Hawkins, John Davis, and Maxey Rayburn met at Gilbreath Park walked the area and place stakes. They are combining the \$1500 pledge

from International Paper with Georgia Power funds for Tree Trim Easement on 6 parcels of land that make up Wolfe Park and the Gilbreath Rec Center. Michael Skeen put out a bid for 14 trees with a one-year guarantee and watering. The cost is approximately \$500 per tree. Five Black Gums, a Gingko, and 8 Willow Oaks will be planted.

Berry College:

Eddie Elsberry reported that they are engaging in prescribed burning 1500 acres on Berry property. There are 15 trees in their nursery that will be planted.

County Extension Office:

Keith announced that a fruit tree pruning workshop will be held at Chieftains Museum from 10 until 12 on Saturday, March 26th. He handed out a list of the 2022 Yards and Gardens Workshop Calendar for the Floyd County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. This workshop will be conducted by Keith, John and Terry Paige.

Georgia Forestry Commission:

Seth Hawkins was not present, sent report via email.

Fire report for Floyd: In Feb our crews responded to and suppressed 6 wildfires in the County, totaling 48 acres burned. There have already been 2 fires in March, totaling 5 acres. With moisture right now, the analysts predict a very dry and active fire season this year, so please be mindful of weather when doing any backyard debris burning in the coming spring/summer.

GFC is most likely re-launching community sub-grant program. The grant categories will range from tree planting, to inventories, tree equity and environmental justice projects, and many other categories. We are still fleshing it all out, but informing folks know to start thinking about potential projects in their communities. Seth will confirm all the details at the next meeting.

Old Business

Jake Hagar gave an update on the Covington Park Work Day, he reported that volunteers removed a large amount of undergrowth. There is also another work day being scheduled, he will inform Tree Board once details are finalized. He also thanked the local tree company that donated their time, equipment and employees.

New Business:

Hannah announced that the local DAR chapter has donated \$100 for planting of trees.

Jordan Allen from the Planning Department requested that a historic tree on Darlington Way be replaced. Ernie has looked at the area and reported that the stump is still there. Pictures show that the street is laid out around the stump. Also, a nearby house is being renovated. Ernie Watson will investigate and will be discussed at a later date.

Chad and John presented information on tree replacements on South Broad across from Myrtle Hill Cemetery where previously planted elms have died. Their plans are to replace them with Hornbeams, an understory tree, and Flowering Dogwoods. Jake Hagar informed the group that a Georgia Power installation on one corner might be an obstacle in that area.

Upcoming Events:

- Fruit Tree Pruning on March 26th at Chieftains
- Tree Care/Pruning Class for municipal tree staff in Northwest Georgia on May 5th at Rome-Floyd ECO Center which will include chain saw training - this is not open to the public
- GA Tree Council Quarterly Meeting in Alpharetta on May 11th

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Roberts

Pam Roberts, Secretary