



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

## Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

### Minutes

July 25, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Commissioner Elaina Beeman, City of Rome Commission  
Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator  
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager  
Ben Winkelman, ECO Center Director  
James Asbury, KRFB Board Member  
Bob Henderson, KRFB Board Member  
Lucy Burnes, KRFB Board Member  
Georgia Burns, KRFB Board Member  
Melissa Rutledge, KRFB Board Member  
Amy Dawkins, KRFB Board Member  
Michael Jones, KRFB Board Member

Guests: Tim Garrett, City of Rome Solid Waste Director  
Jennifer Mottem

#### Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Hannah Bagley. Ben Winkelman made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 23, 2022 meeting. This motion was seconded by Melissa Rutledge.

The 2022 Year to Date Report is as follows:

- 55 events
- 1566.5 volunteer hours
- 490 bags of trash
- 7390 pounds of trash
- 181 trees recycled

## Reports:

Hannah Bagley stated that KRFB is doing very well compared to past years in participation and community involvement. One end of the year goal is to total 2,000 volunteer hours.

## Code Enforcement Update

The Floyd County Code Enforcement officers have been working in the Shannon area and reported their success over email. 95 properties have been brought into compliance so far, and 17 properties are improving with time. 11 citations have been made, and only 11 other properties have shown little to no progress. The main issue with these properties is locating the responsible parties. The officers always address property owners with a positive attitude. Many residents of this area have reached out in thanks because of their efforts. PAWS has also been working on the animal control side of these issues.

## Old Business:

### June 18th Your Community Cleanup Day

We had some participation for this event from board members Lucy Burnes and Michael Jones. Lucy reported that the largest issues were confetti, shredded paper, and bottle cap lids in the Marglen area. She noted that the tiny pieces of litter were the most problematic. This was likely not intentional from the surrounding businesses, we just need to raise awareness as our mission statement advocates.

We would like to thank Ben Winkelman for grilling out. Overall, it was a successful day and KRFB hopes to have another event like this once the weather cools down. Much of the participation was from people who were not even Roman citizens, but those visiting family from out of state. There was also a very large age range of participants.

## Enviroscape Completion

Hannah Bagley highlighted the completion of the Enviroscape by displaying it for board members during the meeting. It is a stormwater 3D depiction for kids that had become outdated. Hannah explained that she typically talks about each part of town and the most common pollutants in those areas as she sets up the enviroscape. It is made to look like Rome, and kids always have an immediate connection to it when the clay clocktower is placed on the board. It has been a great, tangible way to see how citizens can have a positive or negative impact on their community by seemingly small actions. Hannah also mentioned that board members and educators can book the enviroscape for classrooms and other uses. It is hands-on because kids can put pieces of "litter" on the board and pick them up at the end. Ben Winkelman added that cocoa powder may be used to demonstrate land disturbances and kool aid powder may be used

for fertilizers. All of these “pollutants” end up in a dirty mixture that collects in the river. These demonstrations are most impactful in smaller groups.

#### New Business/Discussion:

Joan Ledbetter is resigning from the KRFB Board to become a professor at Tampa University. We would like to congratulate her and thank her for all she has done for KRFB! As a result, we will need a new Chairman very soon. Board members may contact Hannah Bagley if they are interested in this position, or if they would like to suggest someone else as Chairman. We would like to have this position filled for the next meeting in September.

While the KRFB Board members technically do not have any strict attendance requirements in place, Hannah would love to see more participation at events. She would like to encourage this participation, not just because we are a part of this board, but also because we are citizens of this community. There will be a great opportunity to begin this participation at the TRED & KRFB Cleanup at the Town Green on Saturday, August 6th. We will be meeting at the Town Green at 9 am and there will be some kind of food or refreshment available.

Croaky is the new KRFB mascot, and his activity book “Croaky the Frog” was just released with a promotional video that you can watch on Facebook. We would like to thank summer intern Elisabeth Kilgo for creating this book. It is loved by kids and adults, who learn something without even realizing it. This book will be timeless, because nothing in it is dated. Amy Dawkins asked if this book will go out into the local schools, to which Hannah replied that it hopefully will with the help of educators.

No Littering signs have been installed in Floyd County, but not yet in the City of Rome. The new design has been approved by the Public Works Division. The first one was placed in an area with habitual dumping complaints on Flannery Street at Dean Avenue. Since there is a code listed on the sign, it should be easier for Code Enforcement to cite offenders on the spot. KRFB acknowledges that signs do not stop habits, but they will be one of the many tools we use to try to make a change. There has been a lot of gratitude coming from this area, because the residents have been requesting a sign for a while. Hannah noted that if you ever see illegal dumping, the best thing you can do is get the license plate number and report it.

#### Guest Speaker: Tim Garrett on Illegal Dumping

Tim Garrett explained that when he catches illegal dumping, his primary goal is to educate. There have been many cases lately of both commercial and residential dumping. As commercial dumping is a felony, he has been able to educate several offenders, and they have chosen to clean up their mess rather than go to court. His jurisdiction lies in City of Rome right-of-way. Some

problem areas recently have been Watters Street, Harbin Alley, Rudy Street, East 11th Street, Melrose Avenue, Waddell Street, and Reservation Street. When he cannot prove that trash belongs to a specific person, but he has a suspicion, he places them on a watch list. This list can be found on his powerpoint, which he says he will keep updated.

Ben Winkelman expressed concern that many people may not realize that commercial dumping is a felony and what that will mean for them. Tim agreed, which is why it is his job to educate them and allow them a second chance to clean their mess. He hopes that this issue will not spill over into the Floyd County area. Jennifer Mottem asked why people will not take this garbage to the landfill. Tim replied that we only have 1 landfill in Floyd County, and all 6 county remote sites only take household garbage. These offenders know that the City of Rome Solid Waste Department will pick up this trash at no cost if they are not caught, however these efforts will be at the cost of the city taxpayer. Hannah Bagley stated that she is working with Emma Wells and Michael Skein to see if any County remote sites could offer more services like this, specifically at the Mount Berry remote site. They have also discussed making promotional videos to show how little effort it takes to bring garbage to the landfill, and how it usually costs much less than you would expect. Tim's final advice for avoiding illegal dumpers is to do your research on any company you are hiring. A good, reputable company will likely charge more because of the dumping costs for landfills.

#### Upcoming Events:

Hannah Bagley mentioned the following upcoming events. There will be a joint cleanup with TRED and KRFB on Saturday, August 6th from 9am-12pm. September 17th is National Cleanup Day. We do not have an event planned for this day yet. Additionally, we may have a Community Wide River Float/Cleanup to celebrate World Rivers Day on September 25th. International Paper would like to partner with us for a river cleanup as well, but a date has not been set as of now.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sophia G. Swann*

Sophia G. Swann, Secretary

