



City Of Rome and Floyd County Georgia



Joint City/County Development Oversight Committee

Minutes
Wednesday, May 23, 2007
Sam King Room
1:00 p.m.

Present:

Howard Gibson, Building Inspection Department; Sue Hiller, Planning Department; Eric Lindberg, Environmental Department; Commissioner John Mayes, Floyd County; Kevin Poe, County Manager; Sammy Rich, Assistant City Manager; Commissioner Norman Skidmore, City of Rome; Commissioner Chad Whitefield, Floyd County; Blaine Williams, Assistant County Manager.

Absent:

Commissioner Wright Bagby, City of Rome; John Bennett, City Manager

I. Call to Order:

Commissioner Whitefield called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Skidmore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Commissioner Mayes seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. Departmental Reports:

A. Planning:

Ms. Hiller reported that under the GIS department, a job description has been created for a GIS assistant position and it has been circulated to Mr. Bennett, Mr. Poe and Rita Odom for their input. She gave copies of the description to the committee. She also had copies of the evaluation criteria for the RFP responses for GIS service provider. She stated that the opening was actually held on May 10th. They received four responses with prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000. She said that a committee will be formed to compile the evaluation results and hopefully a company will be selected within a few weeks.

She reminded the committee that May is National Historic Preservation Month and different events were sponsored including the Architreaure hunt, concert, clock tower tour, a newsletter and a cemetery clean-up.

Under Transportation, Ms. Hiller said she believes that there is \$22,000 in PL rollover money for the 411 Corridor Study. She said that they are working on a TE Grant application for trails that will require coordination with Norfolk Southern, Berry College, Redmond, the city and county.

For the Comprehensive Plan, planning staff needs to meet with Berry College again. She said that the other large landowner is Inland. They haven't met with them yet but will.

Ms. Hiller said that the Planning department, for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals cases, would like to modify the process for accepting applications for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. If applicants do not meet with staff, often the staff does not have complete information to process applications property. She said they would not change the deadline. She also said there is a need to follow the ULDC requirements for adjacent property owner letters. On occasion, staff has been asked to send letters to more than just the adjacent owners. It is possible an applicant could feel that by sending more than the required letters, staff was "stacking the deck" against them, and this could even become a legal issue. If there is a need to go further out, then the ULDC procedure for notices needs to be changed to reflect that.

In terms of ULDC revisions, Ms. Hiller said they will be putting together something on beauty and barber shops in NOC and OI. She said they are gathering information from other communities on this. She also said that they will be putting together something on accessory uses. There are some contradictions in that section of the ULDC.

Commissioner Whitefield asked if, under the revised process for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals cases there will be any type of system for persons who live out of town and cannot easily meet with staff. Ms. Hiller said that these types of cases can be handled over the phone.

Commissioner Whitefield reminded the committee that discussion was held at last month's meeting concerning a forum with the members of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board. Commissioner Skidmore stated that the City is in favor of that and that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Poe would work out the logistics.

B. Environmental:

Mr. Lindberg reported on the following areas of his department:

Water First Community:

The Water First review board meeting to review our application has been rescheduled for June 13th.

Education and Outreach:

The River Education Center architectural bids have been narrowed to two firms. The River Development Committee will take this up at their meeting on May 24 and make a recommendation to the City Commission. Georgia's Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant (319 Grant) applications are due May 31.

River Cleanup Events:

The Renew Our Rivers event took place on May 17-18 at Brushy Branch.

River Development:

The River Development Committee will meet on Thursday May 24 to discuss the River Education Center architect and the formation of a new trails/outdoor recreation group within the committee.

Brownfields Grant:

Work is continuing on the Brownfields application with the Fanning Institute of Government at UGA, Hightower Engineering, Leamon Scott with the DCA, and David Sykes from CTC consultants. UGA's Fanning Institute visited two sites (the O'Neill Manufacturing site and the Celanese factory site) as part of its new "snapshot" economic redevelopment pilot program. They will be putting together a presentation to bring back to Rome around the end of June or early July.

KEEP ROME FLOYD BEAUTIFUL

City of Rome Tree Board:

The Tree Board continues to grow and improve. Volunteer citizen members of the City of Rome's Tree Board include: Georgia Burns, Rita Jones, Nelli Luthi, Carolyn McGuiness (Vice Chairman), Pam Roberts, Susan Thomas, Roy Goolsby, Keith Mickler, Brooke Brinson, Carolyn Walker (Federated Garden Clubs representative) and Tom Saltino (Chairman). Staff members met with Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development representatives on Monday, May 21, 2007 to discuss plans for ISA training workshops. The ISA training is slated to begin in Rome on July 13, 2007.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council will host its annual conference in Rome October 31-November 2, 2007.

Great American Cleanup 2007:

Mulch Madness – the event sponsored by the National Youth Service Day on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21, was well-attended. Over 60 children and adults helped to mulch and protect 60 trees planted on the walking trail behind the State Mutual Stadium. Other sponsors include the Commission on Children & Youth, Hands On Rome, and the Floyd Healthcare Foundation.

The Litter Critter Puppet Show with Rome Federated Garden Clubs is a big hit with the third and fourth graders who have seen it. The Garden Club puppeteers have been asked by Lynn Cobb at Keep Georgia Beautiful put on a show at the Keep Georgia Beautiful Fall Conference at Red Top Mt. State Park in September.

The Recycling Challenge at St. Mary's School has been very successful – since the kick-off on April 23, the school has recycled 1,160 lbs of aluminum and plastic. So far, the school has filled the recycling trailer twice – the principal, Mr. Alex Porto, told the students if they can fill the trailer three times, he will let them throw three pies in his face! The principal is interested in purchasing a trailer to allow the school to recycle year-round.

The recycling trailer will go to the Boys & Girls Club over the summer.

Renew Our Rivers – May 17 and 18 at Brushy Branch:

Over the course of two days, May 17 and May 18, 2007, volunteers worked to remove 6,060 lbs of trash and 38 tires from the rivers and connecting water systems around Brushy Branch and the Coosa River. The effort averaged about 55 volunteers each day. Twenty-three corporate and business sponsors contributed to this event. To date, Renew Our Rivers raised \$8,800 in funds which will benefit Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful's programs which help to create awareness in our community about the importance of proper solid waste management, proper maintenance of our waterways, and the need to protect our natural environment.

KRFB will help the Historic Preservation Department during the month of May (officially Historic Preservation Month) to revitalize signage at Five Points (Minority Business Association sign). Please see the photograph of the picture of the restored sign. Many, many thanks to the City of Rome Street Department, Public Works Department and Arborist Department for giving new life to this sign. A rededication ceremony will be planned.

C. Building Inspection:

Mr. Gibson presented the committee with his department's report. His comments included:

- Single family's way off but has picked back up - city's off and county's up
- Commercial is up
- Continuing to deal with training of staff – dealing with inconsistencies
- Newsletter to homebuilders association
- They are dealing with code enforcement issues mainly in the city with the exception of zoning issues.
- Approximately thirty cases will be heard in environmental court on June 12. Most are abatement cases.
- Training for county environmental officers has been offered by the Building Inspection Department.
- The case at 2 Clubview Drive in Edenfield appears to be on the road to resolution.
- Mr. Martin updated on current commercial projects including the Walt Adams building, a new strip shopping center on Broad Street, Subway on Martha Berry, Floyd Medical Center and Harbin Clinics additions and the DSL Building at the corner of Turner McCall Boulevard and Broad Street.

Commissioner Skidmore expressed concern over the DSL building that it may impede sight and hearing for emergency vehicles. Mr. Martin stated that they will work with the Fire Department on their Standard Operating Procedure to have them slow down but ambulances are the problem.

There being no further business, the committee stood adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Ramey
Recording Secretary