



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

Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful Minutes

March 28, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Commissioner Allison Watters, Floyd County Commission
Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator
Joan Ledbetter, KRFB Chairman
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Kislak, Chamber of Commerce
Glen Rubin, Senior Code Enforcement Inspector
James Asbury, KRFB Board Member
Meredith Ulmer, KRFB Board Member
Bob Henderson, KRFB Board Member
Lucy Burnes, KRFB Board Member
Georgia Burns, KRFB Board Member
Melissa Rutledge, KRFB Board Member

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Joan Ledbetter. She asked the members to review the minutes from the January 19, 2022, meeting. Bob Henderson made a motion to accept the minutes as written with Allison Watters seconding the motion.

The 2022 Year to Date Report was reviewed.

YTD Totals:

- 25 events
- 616 volunteer hours
- 229 bags of trash
- 3,555 pounds of trash
- 181 trees recycled

Programs and Events

Bring One for the Chipper

- 18 volunteers helped disperse 56 seedlings and recycle 181 trees, netting 36 volunteer hours.
- We will provide more education about the importance of bringing trees back rather than throwing them in the local Landfill.

Arbor Day

- Although it was windy and cold, we are grateful for the 80 attendees and the City Public Works Division who planted the 15 trees. This Arbor Day marks 32 years of Rome as a Tree City, and the 14th time recipient of the Growth Award.
- Trees were planted on March 28th along South Broad St. The species are Hornbeam and Dogwood, these were chosen due to their shade tolerance.

FFA Service Day

- 8 FFA classes spent the day cleaning litter and underbrush for an educational volunteer experience. They plan to involve Bee City in creating a pollinator garden on Sunday, April 3rd.

TRED Cleanups

- This initiative is going well; GE Trail Cleanup was a success.
- The next cleanup will take place after the First Friday concert at the Town Green and along the river on May 7th at 9:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
- Julie Smith from TRED hopes to implement “Trail Tuesdays”, with helpful tips about first aid, trail safety, and responsible use of the trails.

Dean Avenue Cleanup with Berry Students

- 14 Bonner Scholars removed 36 bags of trash for a total of 320 pounds of trash and 28 volunteer hours.
- Mr. Rubin noted that the area was impressively different after this cleanup.

Adopt a Mile

- 4 miles have been cleaned by 74 volunteers resulting in 100 volunteer hours. 34 bags of trash have been removed for a total of 570 pounds of trash.
- We appreciate the Nichols family, who clean their mile on Norton Road at least two times a month.

- The Boy Scouts covered their miles on North 5th Avenue and Turner McCall Blvd. on March 29th they did a thorough job.
- However, with other groups, there has been an issue of adoptees not following through with their cleanups. We are working on solutions to uphold the integrity of the Adopt a Mile program.

Armuchee Elementary Field Trip

- The 120 students of the 3rd grade class at Armuchee were able to participate in many hands-on educational activities including the Rain Drop Relay, through this simulation the students learned about the water cycle and water pollution.
- Hannah Bagley also noted that children from this class have since visited the ECO Center and had a strong emotional connection to seeing the animals and learning how they can make a difference.

Hawks on Mission

- As the kickoff event for the Great American Cleanup, 28 volunteers removed 28 bags of trash, resulting in 200 pounds of trash, and netting 84 volunteer hours. This included a television, a mop, hub caps, shoes, and a multitude of plastics along with cigarette butts.
- Shorter has signed up for another service program in the coming months.

Old Business

MLK Day

- In January, 25 volunteers collected 57 bags of trash totaling 570 pounds. This resulted in 81.5 volunteer hours.

New Business

Stealth Camera Pilot Program

- There has been an ongoing issue of habitual dumpers on Norton Road located in Floyd County. Floyd County Public Works Director Michael Skeen has been removing the trash routinely. To ameliorate this problem, KRFB will install 4 stealth cameras to catch and charge those dumping.
- We spent \$499 on 4 cameras and a large stack of SD cards, a ticket for commercial dumping can cost up to \$1500. Once proven effective, we will move forward with purchasing more cameras and install in other “problem” locations.

Code Enforcement Update

- Glen Rubin has officially joined the KRFB Board to create a co-op between KRFB and Code Enforcement rather than working against each other.
- We will start enforcing proper garbage disposal through pulling tag numbers, catching people in the act, and digging through bags to find identification. Through ticketing those who offend, we believe we will see a decline in illegal dumping.
- A large dump was found between Dean Avenue and Martha Berry Highway of automotive parts that originated outside of Floyd County. There is a felony case being made by Tony Yarborough.

Discussion

Commissioner Watters discussed on how she organized her own neighborhood wide cleanup event, which resulted in 14 bags of trash being removed. Her neighbors were excited about this social gathering and planned to do it again, she expressed that people need to be educated that it is inexpensive and convenient to bring your trash and debris to the landfill. You can now use a credit card and it has sped up this process, it does not take much time out of your day anymore since the implementation of the card reader. Chairman Joan Ledbetter and Melissa Rutledge recounted their experiences of conducting cleanups and receiving much appreciation and praise from bystanders. Joan Ledbetter stated, that it was good for people to see them doing their part, to encourage other members of the community to take the initiative.

Chairman Ledbetter also mentioned her delight with the My Rome App for citizens to document problem areas for litter in the city. Hannah Bagley informed the group that City Public Works Division does a wonderful job maintaining the My Rome App they can also correspond with the citizens and create work orders for City issues. Hannah stated that the My Rome App is a great tool, however when we as citizens spot litter that we can address we need to take the initiative and not wait for someone else.

Lucy Burnes stated that Floyd County is not incorporated in the app, but you can contact the Floyd County Public Works to inform them of issues. Commissioner Watters stated that she will investigate the possibility of Floyd County participating also.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sophia G. Swann

Sophia G. Swann, Secretary