



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

Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

Minutes

May 23, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Commissioner Allison Watters, Floyd County Commission
Commissioner Elaina Beeman, City of Rome Commission
Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager
Georgia Burns, KRFB Board Member
Melissa Rutledge, KRFB Board Member
Lucy Burnes, KRFB Board Member
Pam Roberts, KRFB Board Member
Elisabeth Kilgo, Summer Intern

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Hannah Bagley. The minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting were approved by common consent.

The 2022 Year to Date Report is as follows:

- 44 events
- 1319 volunteer hours
- 378 bags of trash
- 5865 pounds of trash
- 181 trees recycled

Programs and Events:

Etowah River Cleanup

Hannah Bagley reported that the River Cleanup with Keep Bartow Beautiful and Georgia Power was successful in cleaning up litter as well as building relationships among community members. She hopes that KRFB will be able to hold another river cleanup soon with a larger group of volunteers.

Enviroscape

The updated Enviroscape has been a helpful tool in field trips to make littering more personal to kids, as they can see the direct effects of pollution and litter to their local watershed. Hannah Bagley has directly noticed a difference in engagement from students when the Enviroscape looks like their own hometown as opposed to a basic landscape setup. A pamphlet explaining the procedure for renovating this model has been sent out to all Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliates. Many of these directors have already begun reaching out to Hannah Bagley about ways to follow our example.

Code Enforcement Update

Meredith Ulmer announced that the City of Rome has a new Code Enforcement Officer.

Allison Watters provided an update from Code Enforcement, saying that they have contacted 101 addresses in Lindale, 45 of which have moved from non-compliant to compliant. 17 locations have shown substantial improvement. However, 11 of the 30 remaining locations do not have a responsible party to cite, but Code Enforcement is working on finding them. Residents who are cited now have no reasonable defense in court or in public opinion. The next location to be managed is Shannon. Floyd County Code Enforcement Officer Katheryn Walters has asked for Hannah's assistance in this endeavor, as she resides in this area. In addition, Animal Control is working to better the community. Last week, they impounded 4 animals, issued 1 citation and issued 2 final warnings. They are also helping with spaying and neutering, and plan to install 5 kennels in Lindale this week.

Upcoming Events:

At the Great American Cleanup meeting, it was decided that we would rebrand the former "Adopt-A-Mile Day" as "Your Community Cleanup Day" to engage more members of the community rather than only adoptees. This will take place on Saturday, June 18th from 9-12 pm. Summer intern Elisabeth Kilgo passed out flyers to local businesses, and KRFB has reached out to youth groups, civic groups and other social groups of Rome and Floyd County. Instead of penalizing inactive participants of the Adopt-A-Mile program, we would like to incentivize events like this one by including a thank you lunch cooked by Georgia Power. We accept that this day may be a learning curve, however it will provide an idea for how to improve in following years. The weekend it is planned for is going to be a busy time, between Father's Day and Juneteenth. However, we hope to hold a similar event one day during the fall, when the weather cools off to involve a more diverse group of volunteers. KRFB still has \$2,000-\$3,000 left of the Great American Cleanup Grant to use by about June 11th, which we plan to use to provide food for the volunteers' thank you lunch.

Old Business:

As Hannah Bagley and Ben Winkleman have been attending to many field trips at the ECO Center, totalling about 2,000 kids this school year, the stealth camera put-in has been delayed. However, they should be up soon and working to obtain justice for illegal dumping.

New Business/ Discussion:

We would like to welcome summer intern Elisabeth Kilgo and thank her for the hard work she has already done for KRFB and will continue to do in the following months.

We will be saying goodbye to KRFB Board Member Thomas Kislak, he will be accepting a new position outside of the Chamber of Commerce. We wish him all the best.

Commissioner Watters encourages members to share the Great American Cleanup flyer on social media and to challenge any church or other social groups they are involved with to participate.

Commissioner Watters also mentioned that the Floyd County Water department has water conservation materials that Hannah Bagley may be interested in using for field trips in the future. Hannah Bagley stated that she has materials from the City through Brian Roberts, but would like to involve more from Floyd County. Field trips include kids from both city and county schools, we want both city and county to reflect in our education materials. Hannah also explained that it is important to learn about water conservation because most people do not realize how much trash must be removed from water before it even begins the filtration process for our drinking usage.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sophia G. Swann,

Sophia G. Swann, Secretary