



City of Rome Tree Board

Minutes

July 19, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Hannah Bagley, KRFB Program Coordinator

Ernest Watson, City of Rome Arborist

Chad Hampton, City of Rome Street Department Director

Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager

Seth Hawkins, Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator

Ben Winkelman, ECO Center Director

Georgia Burns, Tree Board Member

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Hannah Bagley. The minutes from the May 17 meeting were approved by common consent.

Reports:

City of Rome

Chad Hampton reported that in May and June, 19 trees were removed and 1 tree was installed, totalling in 130 trees removed and 40 trees installed year to date. Trees lost include an Elm tree on South Broad at Myrtle Hill and a Zelkova on Broad Street at 8th Avenue. We are losing two Redbuds on 2nd Avenue, one at the old Sears building and the other at the old AT&T building. They will be removed in the coming weeks. He also reported for Brian Roberts that he has completed two projects with 73 trees installed. Mr. Roberts has dealt with 3 hazard tree cases, each at various stages of action. 1 hazardous tree removal has been completed.

Floyd County

Michael Skeen expressed via email that 35 hazardous trees were removed in June on the Floyd County Right of Way. He also stated that all trees installed this year were inspected and are

doing well. This includes 17 trees including those planted in the Park in Lindale and Shady Lane. The 17 installed in 2021 on Shady Lane, by the Welcome to Rome sign on 101, and at PAWS are also doing well.

Georgia Forestry Commission

Seth Hawkins indicated that fires have been an issue of late, so the Burn Ban sign will be beneficial in preventing excessive fires. Additionally, the Georgia Forestry Commission is working towards launching more grant programs to help more trees be planted in public spaces. The Georgia Tree Council hopes to focus on disadvantaged populations in order to better address each cities' problems. They will be giving self assessments to communities such as Tree Risk Assessments and others to achieve this goal. They are trying to find ways to creatively benefit canopy coverage with the tighter grant money this year. These assessments and grant programs will be advertised by the Georgia Tree Council. Although Seth Hawkins is not our official forester for Rome, he has been happy to help out when he can. However, we will meet Alex Fowler, our forester shortly.

New Business

Seth Hawkins discussed some online arborist prep classes that will be available for City and County staff. These classes will be run by the Georgia Arborist Foundation and will begin in August. Board members may take the classes for their education without taking the certification test if they desire. Mr. Hawkins will be hosting a test in Rome after the class is finished. All Tree Board Members have a City Level Membership. We also have 5 scholarships for City and County staff.

Meredith Ulmer expressed that while Mary Hardin has worked with the ECO Center, Tree Board, and KRFB for about 14 years and she is a great resource to our members, Hannah is still to be respected as the Director of KRFB and the Tree Board. She must be informed of all tree business.

Hannah Bagley and Seth Hawkins discussed that they would only have rights to be involved in pollination-related activities at Covington Park at the present time. In the past, they have been able to plant trees in this area, but it is unknown who is in charge of that now.

Old Business

Hannah Bagley mentioned that she is working with TRED on Arboretum bike ride at the November Georgia Tree Council conference.

Additionally, the request for trees on Darlington Way has been postponed for the time being.

Upcoming Events

The Georgia Tree Council will be hosting a few webinars and events in the following months. These topics may include planting trees and preparation for planting season. In September, there will be a webinar geared towards college campuses and their tree canopies. They also have done a Virtual Arboretum tour Thursday, July 20 with speakers from UGA Tampa Gardens and other notable locations.

Seth Hawkins encourages all Rome Tree Board Members to participate in the Tree Council Conference November 2-3, as it is taking place in our hometown. Participants may register anytime, but if someone needs a hotel room, that is due by October 1st. Our members do not need to worry about scholarships, GFC will cover the costs for the Rome branch in order to encourage full participation.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sophia G. Swann

Sophia Swann, Secretary