



## City of Rome Tree Board

### Minutes

September 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Rome-Floyd ECO Center

Present: Hannah Bagley, KRFB Program Coordinator

John Hendrickson, Tree Board Chairman

Ernest Watson, City of Rome Arborist

Chad Hampton, City of Rome Street Department Director

Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director

Mary Hardin Thornton, City of Rome Special Projects Manager

Keith Mickler, University of Georgia Extension Coordinator

Pam Roberts, Tree Board Member

Georgia Burns, Tree Board Member

Guests: Sarah McElrah, Between the Rivers Homeowners Association

Linda Jennings, Between the Rivers Homeowners Association

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by John Hendrickson. The minutes from the July 19th meeting were approved unanimously.

#### **Reports:**

##### **City of Rome:**

Chad Hampton reported that 153 trees were removed, 40 trees were installed, and 3,342 hours have been devoted to tree maintenance year to date.

##### **Floyd County**

Michael Skeen reported that 39 trees were removed on the right of way. Two of the trees were court ordered demolition, and the trees were blocking their access.

### **New Business**

Keith Mickler announced that there will be a class at the Lock & Dam pavilion on October 7th from 7:45 am-3:45 pm. It will be about tree pruning and safety. Members can obtain 5 ISA credit hours from attending. You can register on the Georgia Arborist Association site.

Additionally, there will be a tree walk on October 31st led by Keith Mickler and Terry Paige. It will begin at 2:00 pm at the County Clerk Office on 2nd Avenue. The walk will focus on street tree viewing. They are working on getting this event approved for 2 ISA credit hours.

John Hendrickson showed the recent canopy inventory from the State of Georgia. In this 10 year inventory, most areas have seen a decrease in tree canopy. However, Floyd County had a 5.13% overall increase in canopy, which is about 10,000 more acres than in the past. Seth Hawkins will explain more about this inventory at a future Tree Board meeting.

Sarah McElrah spoke on the \$2,000 budget that Between the Rivers Homeowners Association has allotted to install new trees. Mrs. McElrah requested advice on tree species, grants, and placement, removal, etc. Ernest Watson explained that while it seems like you would want bigger trees, they are actually much harder to manage. Although you will have to wait a long time for a young tree to produce environmental benefits, planting them will allow you to maintain the tree much more effectively. He also encouraged Mrs. McElrah to minimize the number of locations trees are in, and instead plant more trees in a few specific areas. As a result of having so many locations, the City of Rome Street Department is required to handle more maintenance responsibilities, such as transporting water bags and mulching. Georgia Power or International Paper may have some grants for planting trees in addition to their budget.

The November Tree Board meeting will be moved to Monday the 14th at 2:00 due to a scheduling conflict at the ECO Center.

### **Upcoming Events**

The Georgia Tree Council Conference will be held in Rome November 1-3. Seth Hawkins has a Scholarship Application for any students or employees that would like to attend. There are two scholarships available for our Tree Board members; anyone who can attend is highly encouraged. Three tours to choose from were scheduled, but they might be consolidated to two due to a shortage in buses and tour guides. Conference Attendees may choose between the City of Rome's Arboretum, Berry College Tree Tour, or Myrtle Hill Cemetery. Director of Georgia Tree Council, Mary Lynne Beckley will make the final decision if there are any consolidations.

Mrs. Bagley also mentioned that we are still looking for items for the silent auction, if anyone would like to donate, contact her. We currently have two paintings, several gift baskets from local businesses, and a wood carved statue from Jerusalem.

### **Old Business**

There is an online class available for ISA certification. One person is already working on this under Chad Hampton. Seth Hawkins will be offering a review for the test, and proctoring the test on paper. There are also opportunities to take the test online at GNTC, but many people prefer a hard copy.

As of now, the request for the installation of trees on Darlington Way has not progressed; there is a lot of preparatory work that needs to take place before we revisit this request.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sophia G. Swann*

Sophia Swann, Secretary