



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

Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

Minutes

September 28, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Floyd County Administration Building

Present: Commissioner Rhonda Wallace, Floyd County Commission

Hannah Bagley, KRFB Program Coordinator

Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager

Brooke Brinson, KRFB Chairman

Amy Dawkins, KRFB Board Member

Lucy Burns, KRFB Board Member

Pam Roberts, KRFB Board Member

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Mr. Brinson. The minutes from the July 24th meeting were approved by common consent

Year to date (see packet),

Tracking YTD differently next year, more month by month rather than comparing from the previous year as a whole. The community buy-in has grown from the previous years. We will be focusing more on education next year, but will still have “boots on the ground” initiatives.

Reports:

Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

Mrs. Bagley reported on the KRFB events and programs, year to date KRFB has hosted 14 educational programs, 27 litter prevention events, 14 adopt-a-mile events, 1 recycling event, and

6 beautification events, for a total of 62 events and programs overall. There have been 2,679 participants, totalling in 2,783.5 participant hours and 7,072 pounds of litter removed from the local right of way and waterways.

It is clear to see that the community engagement increases more and more as time goes on by these statistics. In 2024, YTD will be used to compare each month to the corresponding month in previous years rather than comparing from the previous year as a whole. Mrs. Bagley also reported that the trailer purchased with the BRACE Grant funds has paid dividends, and we are very appreciative of that investment from Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation.

Code Enforcement:

The Floyd County Enforcement Office had an officer recently move to a different position. However, the City of Rome Joint Code Enforcement officers have all positions covered.

Old Business:

KRFB is ineligible to apply for the BRACE Grant in 2023, since we received it this year and we need to spread these resources to other cities and counties. Mrs. Bagley is researching other grants, which are a strong need due to money spent on renovations and storage space. We will be able to depend less on grants in 2024.

New Business:

Mrs. Bagley opened the floor to ideas about new curriculum and field trips. KRFB Board members are asked to keep in mind that we may have to do "house visits" depending on the construction schedule. However, KRFB and the ECO Center are currently planning field trips as usual, which will be rescheduled or modified as needed.

Mrs. Bagley has recently attended the Project WILD and Aquatic WILD certification program. Mrs. Bagley was able to play the role of both teacher and student with certified teachers to see what did and did not work with the curriculum and standards in schools. This took place in Bartow County, with Katie Martin, Director of Keep Bartow Beautiful instructing the class. This has allowed her to connect how to apply this information full circle with sustainability. In the near future, she will be attending programs to learn new innovative teaching mechanisms for the community, especially children. The mission of these programs is to help us try to keep on track with teachers, so that we are focusing on the same standards they are working on in the classroom when they visit for field trips.

Mrs. Bagley reported that KRFB has been doing more classroom visits lately with ECO Center renovations coming up. This includes some very productive learning opportunities with Elm

Street Elementary School, which has resulted in KRFB being asked to come back in the near future.

KRFB is partnering with the Floyd County 4-H club for the first time for a Candy Wrapper Challenge. Participants will be asked to glue their used candy wrappers onto a coloring sheet, which will educate them about specific native animals as well as how detrimental littering on Halloween can be to our local ecosystems. Students can choose between the endangered Lake Sturgeon, our state amphibian, the green tree frog, and the colorful woodpecker. The competition will be judged based on three different age ranges. Prizes for 4-H competitions are typically something that is constructive, educational, and also fun. Often, it is an activity that can be done as a whole family. KRFB and 4-H are currently looking for donations of prizes that fit these standards.

Mrs. Bagley reported that she plans for the KRFB Board to send email updates in place of the November meeting.

Bring One for the Chipper is already a registered event for January 2024. Mrs. Bagley has been in contact with Home Depot. KRFB still needs to decide on species of tree to give out to participants.

KRFB has also partnered with Pepperell FFA to build 5 raised beds. 2 of them have been installed at the head of the Mount Berry trail. These were donated to Bee City USA for planting pollinator-friendly flowers. They are still deciding on another trailhead to place the other 3 raised beds at. The students plan to build 5 to 6 more raised beds this year. KRFB is proud to have considerable amounts of buy-in from both City and County FFA's.

Events:

Mrs. Bagley set up the Coosa Valley Fair Interactive Booth on Saturday, September 30. The booth involved Tree City, Bee City, KRFB, and the ECO Center. There was a watershed demonstration, live animals, demonstration hive, and more. KRFB also plans to participate in the 2023 Rome Christmas Parade.

There will be a City of Rome Employee Cleanup on Friday, October 13, 8:30-12 PM along with an optional costume component to the cleanup. This event will be an opportunity to network with other members of the City of Rome. It is also important in giving the community a positive view of their leaders. Mr. Brinson brought up that litter cleanups are often fun, as well as rewarding because the difference you make is so tangible. Mrs. Bagley added that as more people see the benefits of being involved in cleanups, the more they will share with their other

groups, and more and more people will want to participate. This is evident by our rising participant numbers.

Green Fest was a success at Johnson Elementary earlier this year. KRFB was able to reach an entire school rather than just one grade level. Mrs. Bagley said that it was a good pilot program, but it could be even more efficient next year. Mr. Brinson asked how we get this program into all of the local City and County Elementary Schools. Mrs. Bagley said that it would be best to partner with a few teachers from each school. 3rd through 5th grade teachers would be most ideal to partner with because this is when the curriculum focuses on earth sciences. Mrs. Bagley said that we would love to have other community partners to encourage even more fun and education. We will utilize Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree curriculum to back up our program before 2024. As there is no budget, Green Fest must depend fully on donations, which creates an added component of difficulty. Seed bombs were the most cost efficient item used this year, but seed prices fluctuate often. Community partners such as Walmart and Dyke's Creek were great assets this year.

Mr. Brinson brought up an idea for a more social fundraiser. Mrs. Bagley suggested partnering with River Remedy for a fundraising event such as a Sip and Paint. Mrs. Dawkins suggested the name Keep Rome-Floyd Brew-tiful. Mr. Brinson suggested having a band and really making it a party. However, an event at this venue will probably have to be postponed until the spring because of weather.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sophia G. Swann

Sophia G. Swann, Secretary