



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

Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

Minutes

May 22, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Floyd County Administration Building

Present: Commissioner Rhonda Wallace, Floyd County Commission

Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator

Lucy Burnes, KRFB Board Member

Pam Roberts, KRFB Board Member

Melissa Rutledge, KRFB Board Member

Guest:

Joy Puckett, Garden Federation Vice President

Norma Reboredo, City of Rome Resident

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Mrs. Bagley. The minutes from the March 27 meeting were approved by common consent.

Reports:

Year to Date, there have been 41 events and programs, 2,201 participants, 1,969.5 participant hours, and 4,187 pounds of litter removed. We have almost reached half of the litter removed for the entirety of 2022.

As discussed in the last meeting the original 4th Monday of each month KRFB meeting will be moved, as it conflicts with the City Commission meetings. There have been no decisions made yet and, meetings will continue to be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Floyd County Administration meeting.

Old Business:

There has been no movement with the City Schools in regard to GreenFest. We will continue to work towards a plan to host GreenFest within the City School system. Johnson Elementary School agreed to host GreenFest on their campus, there will be many educational activities related to water and recycling, such as seed bombs, games, crafts, and demonstrations. There will also be a snack station, which we may need a sponsor for. Kellogs has offered to donate Rice Krispy treats. Mr. Winkelman, Director of the Rome-Floyd ECO Center will also be bringing native animals. We estimate that about 500 kids will come throughout the school day in increments of 55 minutes by grade level. Board members are encouraged to sign up for a time slot to volunteer, and parent volunteers will also be involved. KRFB will be using the same Georgia Standard of Excellence as used in the classroom. Commissioner Rhonda Wallace hopes this initial event will act as an example for all schools in the area to follow.

Ginger Rowston was recommended by Chairman Brooke Brinson to join the KRFB Board. She is retired from Rome City Schools and has a variety of different community service experiences. Mrs. Roberts made a motion to accept Mrs. Rowston as a new KRFB Board Member, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

New Business:

Mrs. Lucy Burnes reported that GreenFest was a huge success among their students and teaching staff, they enjoyed the partnership between the Rome-Floyd ECO Center and Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful. Dykes Creek Farm Supplies donated all the native wildflower seeds for the seed bomb project. Leading up to the event students collected and shredded paper with the assistance of the art teacher, the kids have been involved in the entire process; they witnessed how the paper took on another form. Kellogg's donated to every student, thanks to a parent who is employed by Kellogg's made this donation possible, they supplied over 500 children with a snack.

East Rome Walmart donated over \$1,000.00 in items, ranging from koolaid mixes for the students to seeds to be planted at a later date, there were more donated items than we needed for this event, all the items will be utilized for other KRFB projects in the coming months. Mrs. Lucy Burnes reported that Debbie who is the store manager for the East Rome Walmart, part of her job is community involvement, she is always searching for organizations to give back to and support. In addition to the GreenFest, East Rome Walmart also fed the entire staff at Johnson Elementary School for teacher appreciation week. We will reach out to Hi-Tech Signs to have a thank you banner made and signed by all of the students as a token of appreciation.

We will begin planning on how we can improve and make this a more standardized lesson plan that can be tailored to different grade levels and schools. Johnson Elementary School Principal has already agreed to host the GreenFest again next year, she would like to see more involvement from other businesses and entities, they were very encouraged by what they witnessed during the day.

Commissioner Rhonda Wallace stated she sees this as less of a risk for the GreenFest to come to the school as opposed to the schools transporting children by bus for field trips, and each student is taught instead of just one grade level.

Mrs. Burnes stated that we need to establish and cultivate a working relationship with schools in order to host more of these events, without Mrs. Burnes having the inside connections to Johnson the event would not have been as successful. The buy-in from principals is paramount to seeing this become a more standard event within the schools. Mrs. Bagley and Mrs. Burnes will begin working on lesson plan outlines and curriculum for the GreenFest.

The first GreenFest, although successful, we now see what we need to improve on, Mrs. Bagley continuously walked each station and taught each Parent Volunteer, and Teacher how to correctly run the station, with a standardized lesson plan this will make each station run smoother in the future.

At the March meeting, it was brought to the attention of the board by Mr. Chris Jenkins that it would be in the best interest to work closely with the Garden Clubs of Rome, as there are many gardens that have fallen into disrepair due to the lack of Garden Club members in Rome. We are looking at pairing students who need service hours with Master Gardeners, which will help students in local FFA and 4H Programs. Mrs. Bagley will meet with the Vice President and President of the Garden Federation to identify gardens that need assistance.

Upcoming Events:

Mrs. Bagley announced that the plans have been finalized for the Georgia Power and Keep Bartow Beautiful River Float again this year. This event will be held on Friday, June 2, at 8:00 AM at the 411 Boat Ramp located on Macedonia Road; anyone who would like to attend can bring their own Kayak or Canoe to join in the fun and make a difference in the community. There will also be a gardening project at the boat ramp for anyone that does not want to be on the water.

Mrs. Bagley announced KRFB will be partnering with Pepperell High School and UGA Extension Office in August for a Leadership Project Day. Pepperell has not finalized any details

other than we are in need of any donations for the project, which will be building raised garden beds that we hope to donate to a facility that can be used for enrichment activities.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah N. Bagley

Hannah Bagley, Program Coordinator