

Minutes of the Griffin Tree Board February 4, 2008

Members present: A. Larsen, B. Keller, J. Demski, J. Hemphill, K. Jenkins, H. Day, D. Hollberg, O. Evans, J. Martin, J. Walker, M. King

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Scout Hut: Trees tagged for removal have been removed. J. Willis is working on plans for planting.
2. City planting sites: J. Hemphill and J. Willis are working on locations for planting.
3. Presentation for Commissioners: The City Commissioners will have a workshop on February 12th beginning at 9:00 A.M. and followed by an all-day retreat. J. Hemphill is to make a presentation from the Tree Board about the need for an additional tree crew so that trees might be properly pruned. J. Martin suggested that Hemphill impress upon the Commissioners just how valuable our trees are. Members of the Tree Board area invited to attend.
4. Arbor Day: Arbor Day is February 15th. There is a possibility that an Arbor Day celebration could be held at the Scout Lodge in conjunction with planting there. In order for Griffin to remain a Tree City, we must do something for Arbor Day.

New Business:

1. Vertical Mulching: B. Keller would like to select one block to try vertical mulching (drilling and adding a supplement) to see how it affects the trees in that block. Results will be compared with another block not treated. K. Jenkins discussed the process of using pea gravel and fertilizer as was done in Athens/Clarke County. J. Hemphill suggested that trees in the cemetery be selected for the vertical mulching.
2. Preserving Old Trees: J. Walker announced that he is expecting a visitor the first week of March who has a patented process for preserving old trees. This man would like to demonstrate his process in Griffin and will treat one city tree at no charge, one tree at the Experiment Station, and one private tree. He promises results in two years. Dr. Walker invited the Tree Board to attend the demonstration and will let them know when his guest will be here.
3. J. Hemphill has a good list of trees recommended for this area and a list of alternatives for dogwoods. He also cited an article in the Journal of Arboriculture on routine tree maintenance. He will have Kreg send all three items to members of the Tree Board.
4. Georgia Urban Forestry's Five Year Plan: GUFC's plan contains 6 goals which include an adequate amount of tree canopy, fewer impervious surfaces, understanding the value of trees, using best practices for maintaining trees, having local policies to limit land development, designing a plan for tree longevity, and utilizing professional expertise. J. Hemphill recommended that Griffin establish a position for an arborist for the city. Funding the position was discussed. Ideas included sharing an arborist with