

Minutes of the City of Griffin Tree Board March 3, 2008

Tree Board Members present: J. Miller, K. Jenkins, J. Hemphill, J. Demski, D. Hollberg, M. King, J. Walker, and guest J. Arrington

The March meeting of the Griffin Tree Board was called to order by chairman John Hemphill. Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Tree Preservation: K. Jenkins announced that the new augur has been received, but the City has not yet started using it for vertical mulching. He informed the Tree Board of the recent visit by Bob Fulghum who has developed a process for preserving trees by aerating and applying liquid nutrients. He treated a City cedar tree, and that will be compared to results achieved by vertical mulching of a similar tree. D. Hollberg asked if the City could use their tree survey to determine trees which might benefit from treatment and suggested that this treatment be included in the annual budget if results are promising.

Scout Hut: The design by J. Willis is in its final stages. First Baptist Church has agreed to spend up to \$2,000 for trees which the City will plant and maintain for two years. B. Keller has agreed to this.

Ms. Deborah Williams' tree on Solomon St. is to be removed this week.

Hemphill's presentation to the Commissioners: D. Hollberg praised Hemphill's presentation and believes that the Commissioners might approve the expenditure of \$160,000 for an additional tree crew. If this is not in the budget, the Tree Board and Plant the Future should attend budget hearings and try to persuade them to consider it.

New Business:

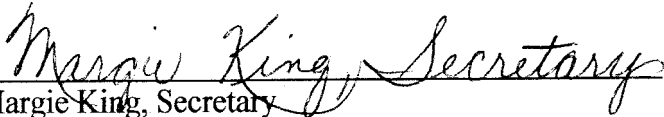
Ideas and Expectations of Tree Board: Tree Board members discussed their ideas and expectations of the Board. J. Demski recommended that the City hire an arborist at least one day a week and that we start an endowment fund. The interest from the fund could be used as needs arise. Difficulties with the project are not having a tax-exempt number and fundraising. It was suggested that Plant the Future join the Chamber of Commerce and that they get a list of members from whom they can solicit funds. It was also suggested that an article about the importance and value of trees be included in utility bills, and D. Hollberg felt that this should come from the Tree Board and Plant the Future. Finally, it was suggested that to promote planting on private property, citizens might pay for a tree plus \$10 and that the City would plant said tree.

Tree Removal: J. Walker recommended removal of a tree at 514 E. Tinsley but said it is not a high priority. Tree Board approved removal as soon as possible.

Tree Meetings: J. Walker informed the Board of the ISA meeting in Knoxville, TN, March 15-18 and the Trees & Utilities National Conference in April in Orlando, FL.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Griffin Tree Board will be Monday, April 7th, at 5:30 P.M. in the Municipal Court Conference Room.



Margie King, Secretary

ATTEST:



John Hemphill, Chairman