

Minutes of the City of Griffin Tree Board
April 7, 2008

Tree Board members present: J. Willis, J. Martin, A. Larsen, K. Jenkins, J. Demski, T. Ridgeway, M. King, J. Walker, D. Hollberg, B. Beryl

The April meeting of the City of Griffin Tree Board was called to order by Commissioner Doug Hollberg. Minutes of the March meeting were distributed and approved.

Old Business:

The project at the Scout Hut has been completed. First Baptist Church spent approximately \$2,000 to purchase trees. The City planted, and the Scouts helped with mulching. The City has planted 140 trees throughout the City.

J. Demski has contacted Helen Grayson of Plant the Future about his proposal for establishing an endowment for trees. Mrs. Grayson does not think that Plant the Future should be involved in this project. Demski has also talked with his accountant who thinks that a corporation should first be formed and then rules and regulations drawn up. The project would require 3-4 people to oversee it. While the Board expressed their interest in establishing an endowment, the question of who would manage it was a concern. J. Walker said that we would need \$20,000 just to start an endowment. It was suggested that an attorney might donate his/her time, and in-kind donations will be needed. B. Budd noted that Covington established an endowment but has run into difficulty finding someone to oversee the project. He also noted that there are grants available from the Georgia Urban Forest Council, but applications are due May 9th. There will be a grant writing workshop on April 17th at the UGA Griffin Campus. K. Jenkins distributed the 2008 Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program booklets.

D. Hollberg informed the Board that \$160,000 has been penciled into the budget for an additional tree crew.

No trees are scheduled for removal.

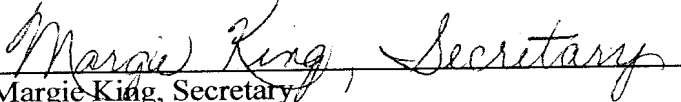
New Business:

T. Ridgeway introduced guests Jim Zurach from Rainbow Tree Care Scientific Advancements and Baynard Ward from Advanced Applicators. These men presented a program on what tree growth regulators are and how they are used, especially for line clearance. They use a growth regulator called Cambistat whose active ingredient is paclobutrazol. This reduces growth 40-70% over three years. In addition to retarding growth, the treatment helps maintain shape, growth of root mass, more disease and drought resistance due to thicker leaves with more leaf hairs, and more fruit production. The product is injected into the soil around the base of the tree (best done in fall), and customers are charged about \$4-6/inch of DBH. This is about half the cost of trimming. The treatment is applied approximately once every three years about three months prior

to trimming. Trees with less than a 4-inch DBH are not treated, and Baynard's company does not treat fruit-bearing trees such as pecans or peaches.

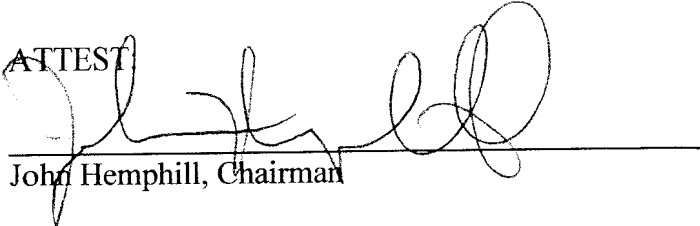
Board members were reminded that this treatment does not solve problems in which the wrong tree was planted in the wrong location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. **The next meeting of the Griffin Tree Board will be Monday, May 5th at 5:30 PM in the City Municipal Court Room.**



Margie King, Secretary

ATTEST



John Hemphill, Chairman