

**Minutes**  
**City of Griffin Tree Board**  
**Monday, August 7, 2006**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Board Room, City Hall, 231 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, GA 30224**

The August meeting of the Griffin Tree Board came to order at 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 7, 2006 with Vice Chairman Jerry Walker presiding in the absence of Chairman John Hemphill. Those in attendance were James Willis, Hannah Day, Diane Boles, Michelle Cannon, Tom Ridgeway, Jerry Walker, Doug Hollberg, John Miller, Milton McCarthney and Kreg Jenkins. Wade Hutcheson of the Spalding County Extension Office was also present. Minutes from the July meeting were approved as read.

Milton passed around copies of the Tree Hazard Removal Budget. Total amount for the fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, is \$50,000. The city holds \$10,000 in reserve for possible storm emergencies up until April. To date, \$6,600 has been spent this year. Additional scheduled removals, including seven on Maple Drive, one on Hill Street and one at College and South 6<sup>th</sup> Streets, will bring the total to \$31,600, leaving approximately \$18,400 in the budget.

The Tree Planting Budget is \$10,000. To date, 2006 plantings include 88 2.5-inch trees at an average cost of \$100 each.

Milton displayed a sample of the orange flags that have been placed by trees scheduled for removal on Maple Drive. He stated that the web site is operational, but there have been no responses concerning the removals thus far.

Under new business, Kreg discussed the Tree Action List. An oak at 1221 Maple Drive is in decline and is infested with mistletoe. It is not a high priority removal. A Virginia pine at 610 Terrace Street needs dead limbs removed and fertilizing. An oak at 545 South Hill Street has a hollow trunk and should be removed, but is low priority. It can be left for the rest of the season and re-evaluated in the Spring. A vote was taken to delay removal of all trees on this list.

According to Kreg, of the 88 trees planted this year, 50 have gator bags for watering. The city waters all the newly planted trees about once every three weeks. Because of the drought, some of the trees are dying or in distress. Kreg was asked to compile a list of the location of all the trees that have died after planting.

Other trees that have been observed as needing attention are a dead tree at the southeast corner of College and Sheridan Streets, a dead tree on private property at Finley and College Streets, a large limb down at the northwest corner of Bell and Ellis Streets and a tree in a severe state of decline on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Poplar Streets.

Doug Hollberg outlined the Tree Plan for Maple Drive as drawn up by the sub-committee. He showed a large map that plotted the location of each tree slated for removal and what will go in its place.

Replacement plantings will include:

- 17 Trident Maples, 6 at Milner Drive and 11 at Crescent Road
- 6 Japanese Maples at Grove Street
- 8 October Glory Maples at Pine Ridge and Pine Valley
- 40 oaks or a combination of oaks and maples

Future plans call for maple trees to be planted down the remainder of Maple Drive. According to Diane, the Trident Oaks and Japanese maples should not interfere with power lines at maturity. A lengthy discussion centered around burying power lines. Tom Ridgeway stated it would take approximately \$6 million to bury lines on Maple Drive alone. Because of existing regulations, cable and phone line burial would also be at city expense. Burying lines is not possible for the near future.

Doug suggested presenting the removal and replacement plans to the Maple Drive neighborhood by the end of August. Re-plantings should begin in September and October. Although 2-inch trees will be planted because of budget constraints, citizens will be given the opportunity to purchase larger specimens. The city will water and care for all the trees, but citizens can take care of trees in front of their property. It was emphasized that even if a citizen buys a larger tree, the city makes no guarantees for its survival or replacement with another larger tree.

The Maple Drive corridor will be used as a pilot project for future tree plantings. Each new corridor will be offered a look at the removal/replacement plan for their area and have the opportunity to purchase larger trees.

Doug will be in charge of the Maple Drive citizens drop-by meeting. An article announcing the meeting and outlining the plan will be placed in the Griffin Daily News and on the website a week before the meeting. Radio stations will also be notified.

Jerry Walker announced that there will be a meeting of the Georgia Urban Forest group on Nov. 15-17<sup>th</sup> at Jekyll Island. The cost is \$200 per person and reservations must be made by Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. Conference title is "Weathering Storms". He also passed around pictures of Peducah, KY, where local downtown merchants maintain large planters of trees in front of their businesses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006.**

Submitted by Hannah Day  
Griffin Tree Board Secretary