

# Minutes of the City of Griffin Tree Board

August 4, 2008

Tree board members present: J. Miller, J. Martin, T. Ridgeway, J. Demski, K. Jenkins, B. Keller, D. Hollberg, A. Larsen, M. King, J. Walker, J. Hemphill, H. Day

Guest: Harvey Pilkenton

Chairman John Hemphill presided over the meeting. Minutes of the June meeting were amended to include D. Hollberg as present and were then approved.

## Old Business:

Endowment: J. Demski reported that, because he was unable to meet with an attorney regarding the establishment of an endowment for trees in Griffin, he got materials from Beryl Budd on the endowment which the city of Covington has. Demski noted that it will take both time (10-20- years) and effort to accrue enough money to use the interest of a fund for our trees. The City cannot, by law, establish such an endowment fund, and Plant the Future has declined to be involved because of lack of both members and expertise. A private enterprise would have to assume this project. Since the Tree Board is not enthusiastic, Demski will not proceed. He recommended that the Board pursue a grant from the Georgia Urban Forest Council which would be awarded in the spring. The application needs to be begun in October. Keller reviewed the three grants which the City has previously received from the GUFC. Tree Board members agreed that they do not want the idea of an endowment fund to die, but at this time there is no one to establish and manage it.

Tree on Sixth Street: Attorney Drew Whalen has told B. Keller that the City has no recourse since the tree whose large limb fell is on private property. The owner has received notice, and he will be liable should anything happen.

## New Business:

Planting Sites: The Board discussed possible planting sites for the fall. Keller would like to plant in November. Plant the Future is planning to continue their planting in Oakhill Cemetery and in a plot on Carver Road which is owned by the County. Hollberg listed planting sites from last fall and said that the City plans to continue putting in trees on Maple Drive/Sixth Street. J. Willis and J. Hemphill will present a plan for planting at the next Tree Board meeting.

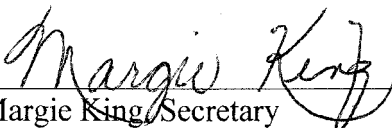
Boy Scout Lodge: B. Keller asked why trees were planted where they were. It was noted that some of the recently planted trees have died.

Harvey Pilkenton's Presentation: Harvey Pilkenton presented a proposal to remove Bradford pears in front of the building adjacent to the Griffin Daily News office and to replace those trees with landscaping that included crape myrtles. It was suggested that some diversity of tree specimens would be desirable. Keller expressed concern over the

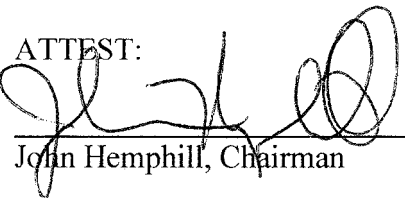
difficulty in taking down the existing trees and replacing them. The sidewalk will also have to be replaced, but this won't be done until new trees have been planted. Hollberg made a motion to remove the existing trees, and the motion carried. Keller is to get back to Pilkenton about this project in the next two weeks.

There were no new trees scheduled for removal.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Griffin Tree Board is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>.

  
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Margie King, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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John Hemphill, Chairman