

Minutes of the City of Griffin Tree Board  
September 8, 2008

Members present: D. Hollberg, T. Ridgeway, J. Hemphill, K. Jenkins, J. Walker, J. Martin, J. Miller, M. King

Chairman J. Hemphill called the meeting to order. Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Planting Sites: J. Hemphill and J. Willis have met to select planting sites for the fall. Hemphill will take K. Jenkins to look at the sites during the week of September 8th to determine whether or not the augur will be able to dig in those locations. Most are located on Taylor Street where there could be issues with DOT. DOT would require a plan, so the City may have to look at private sites. A standard letter could be sent to business owners or managers if we do not choose to plant on the rights of way. Other possible planting sites mentioned were Solomon Street and Hill Street.

Several dogwoods from last year's planting have died. Pythium (root rot) is a probable culprit. There were questions regarding the nursery in Florida from which these trees were purchased. It is possible that they will be willing to replace those trees which did not survive. K. Jenkins is keeping a list and is in contact with the nursery. J. Walker reminded Board members that the standard thinking is that it is best to purchase trees from the region in which they are to be planted. Nuttall oaks on Maple Drive have lost leaves, but Jenkins reported that the damage is probably from caterpillars. Cryptomerias on Hill Street in front of Studio D and Bunn's did not survive, but the soil is badly compacted, and that could be part of the problem. When asked if there were other evergreens which might be planted instead, Walker responded that cryptomerias do well here.

K. Jenkins shared an email from Bold Spring Nursery regarding the lacebark elm. This species is narrow and has a height of only about 40 feet at maturity.

It was mentioned that Chinese fringe trees would be good under power lines and that Carpinus would do well here.

Members in attendance did not know if Keller had contacted Pilkenton regarding the removal of Bradford pears on Solomon Street.

Two upcoming conferences in the area were announced. There will be a national Arbor Day Society conference in Atlanta November 18-20 with the theme, "Partners in Community Forests." The cost of the conference is about \$300. Georgia Urban Forest Conference will meet in Augusta October 29-31. There will be a round table discussion on city tree boards, but the conference theme is "clean air, clean water, and urban forests."

Hollberg discussed the upcoming SPLOST and its implications for sidewalks and the beautification of rights of way.

Walker expressed his concern that this tree board does not seem to be doing anything other than meeting monthly. The Board discussed things they might be able to do, such as educating the public about the importance of trees. J. Martin believes that public awareness is part of the job of a tree board. The Board might be able to get a grant for education. Hollberg suggested that members of the tree board might give tree talks to civic groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis.

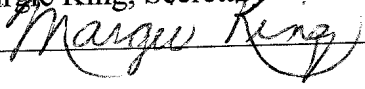
It was announced that Plant the Future would meet on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 at the County Extension Office.

K. Jenkins mentioned an article from Beryl Budd called "Money Does Grow on Trees." He will email copies of the article.

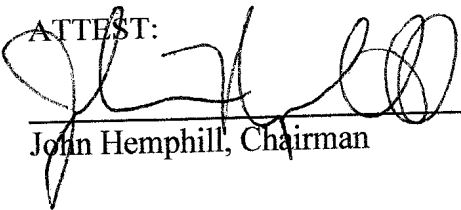
There were no trees for removal that needed a board vote.

**The next meeting of the Tree Board will be on October 13<sup>th</sup>, not the 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Margie King, Secretary

  
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ATTEST:

  
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John Hemphill, Chairman