

RSTC Minutes for April 18th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1815 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member, Acting Chairman
 - c. David Moodhart – Member - Absent
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Brian Twyman – City Council
 - g. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - h. John Denick – Support – Absent
 - i. Ralph Johnson – Public Works Director
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from March, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ryan.
 - i. All were in favor. 3y, 0n
4. Report of permits
 - a. For March, 2019
 - i. Removals – 2
 - ii. Pruning – 3
 - iii. Planting – 0
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. Safe Transportation for every pedestrian
 - b. 0 – Notifications for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners
 - c. 2 – Notice of Violations issued for hazardous trees, vacant pits
 - d. 2 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreement for Spring of 2019
 - e. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
 - f. 2 – Invoices for In House work during March 2019 totaling \$7,900.00
 - g. 4 – Contractor Invoices for Mar 2019 totaling \$19,116.22 (Nolde Pines)
 - h. 1 – Letters of interest received for the Fall 2019 Adopt-a-Tree
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. 1 for Kutztown Rd and Exeter Street – Truck Parking lot

8. Old Business

a. Ordinance:

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the ordinance is still with legal. He states he is working with Mr. Johnson to get this back so the Commission can review.
 - 1. Tabled
 - a. Ms. Yevics voices concern that this has been over a year now and still no action.
 - i. Mr. Johnson states once returned from legal he will allow the commission to review under draft format.

b. Budget:

- i. Mr. Kissinger states next review to occur June 2019

c. Memorial Tree for Mr. Slifko

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the PA One Call for design has come back clear of utilities. He notes that Mr. Denick and a member of Centre Park will be working on the design phase together to present a draft plan.

d. 908 Rose St.

- i. Mr. Kissinger notes he received a 25 page Arbitration request about the appeal the commission ruled on. Copies have been distributed.
- ii. Mr. Johnson notes that if the commission stands by their decision that they should direct Mr. Kissinger to draft a letter for their review and have it back to council before noon Monday.
 - 1. Mr. Reimer agrees and states the commission stand by their decision of upholding the notice. He states the commission is open to discuss there decision with council if they have any question.
- iii. Mr. Kissinger states he will draft a letter and have it for Mr. Reimer to review Monday morning before submitting to City Council.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states the letter was presented to City Council March 25th, 2019
- iv. Mr. Reimer motions to table the matter while in appeal to council. Seconded by Mr. Ryan.
 - 1. All in favor. 3y, 0n

e. 2019 Ash Tree Treatment Program

- i. Mr. Kissinger states he finalized the Ash Treatment list for 2019. He notes this will be the beginning of the second round of treatments for this group of trees with the first round occurring in 2016.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states 5 contractors were solicited to provide a bid for this work. He states all bids are due by the close of business on March 22nd.
 - a. He states he has received two bids. One from Arbor Essence LLC and the second from Klahr Landscaping
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states that Arbor Essence LLC has been awarded the 2019 treatment program. Arbor Essence will be treating 65 Fraxinus trees at an estimated total of 26 hours for a price of \$8,649.38.

He adds that Klahr Landscaping was the lowest bid at \$6,077.50 but failed to follow the bid specs under the application spec #3 stating using Air Hydraulic / Quik-jet. Klahr propose a quote using the IV system.

- b. Mr. Kissinger states he choose the hire bidder since they were the most qualified and follow the application specifications.

9. New Business

- a. Volunteers needed for planting of a Blue Spruce at 217 Clifton Av.
 - i. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Twyman volunteered to do the planting. Both will get back to me with a date and time so it can be communicated with the property owner.
- b. Arbor Day, April 26th, 2019
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the ceremony will be held at First Energy Stadium on the N. Front St side at 10am. He notes 8 Acer tataricum will be planted.
 - ii. Ms. Yevics questions if the Stadium is participating in the event.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states not that he is aware of but mentions the Stadium has been notified of the plantings and celebration.
- c. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he is still working to perform assessments of the parks. He notes that Nolde Pines is currently working at Brookline Playground doing removals, pruning, and crown raising. He states Nolde Pines will then move to EJ Dives once completed there.
- d. SLF Tape
 - i. Mr. Kissinger is working to obtain. He notes he reached out to Catch Master who states there vendors are Lowes and Home Depot. He states that the vendor stated there currently on back order.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger will follow up with other vendors shortly.

10. Information:

- a. None

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1930 hours.