

RSTC Minutes for April 19th, 2021

Meeting called to order at 1610 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes:

- Meeting was held at Public Works in the lunch room with social distancing measure in place. All the necessary safety precautions were in place and all participants wore Mask.

1. Attendance:

- a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
- b. Robert Reimer – Member
- c. David Moodhart – Member
- d. Margaret Yevics – Member
- e. Thomas Ryan – Member, **ABSENT**
- f. Donna Reed – City Council
- g. Jeff Thompson – Support, **ABSENT**
- h. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
- i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. None

3. Review of the minutes from March, 2021

- a. Motion was made by Mr. Reimer to approve the March minutes, seconded by Mr. Moodhart
 - i. All in favor. 3Ya's, 0 Na's

4. Report of permits

- a. For March, 2021
 - i. Removals – 6
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 0

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. The Girdle and Herbicide Method for Treating Oak Wilt
 - ii. The American Chestnut: How Biotechnology can be applied to Conversation
 - iii. Pesticide Core Topics
- b. Letters sent to Property owners
 - i. None for the month March
- c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 5 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of March

1. 3 – have be moved to citation
 2. 11 – still pending court or listed as open since the start of 2020
 3. 17 – cases pending inspection or court for 2021
 4. 6 – have been closed for year 2021
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2021
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Spring 2021
 1. Have not heard back from the person
 - e. Invoices for March 2021
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. 9 – for In House work totaling \$46,695.40 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs
 - a. Tree down 1400 block N. 5th Street
 - b. Tree down Oak Lane above Richmond Street
 - iii. 6 – Contractor Invoices totaling \$27,586.00 since the start of the year
 1. These work orders consisted of work performed at:
 - a. Pagoda Triangle
 - b. Coventry Way stump grinding
 - c. Brookline Playground
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. 660 Schuylkill Ave
 - i. Denied Landscaping Plan. Awaiting revisions
 1. Reason for denial. Proposed plantings of Acer platanoides ‘Norway Maple’ and clarification of the number to be planted.
 2. Spirea sp. was approved
 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states no current work is scheduled
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states he has been reviewing complaints as received
 - b. Mr. Slifko – Memorial Stone
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the Centre Park Committee reached out about moving this forward.
 1. Updates to be provided at a later time. Awaiting a meeting date.
 2. Nothing new to report

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the budget for 2021 up to the end of March. No majors changes or expenditures
- b. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states nothing new to report.
 - ii. Mr. Reimer talks briefly about the article recently in the paper
- c. Capital Budget 2021
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the plan is to use the \$90,000 allocated in the Capital Budget for the 5th Street Pruning projecting. He states the administration will need to move \$5,000.00 to cover the rest of the cost as the project was awarded at \$95,000.00 under last year's budget.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the work has begun. He notes the contractor started at Canal Street and has worked north. He states work has been completed so far up to Buttonwood Street. He states work is expected to continue until finished.
 - 1. Ms. Reed questioned about the previous delays noted in last month's minutes.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger notes there was some minor delays due to weather (snow) and a cost increase of the No Parking Signs. Mr. Kissinger states this needed to be worked out before the project could start to make sure there were no additional cost associated as the project already received council's approval. Mr. Kissinger states the cost increase of the parking signs was not anticipated when the project was out for bid.
 - b. Ms. Reed questioned what is the price of the signs now and pervious.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the signs were original \$4.00 and increased to \$16.00. He notes with such a large increase after the contract being awarded the contractor had to work with the parking authority to get things straightened out.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states those issue have all be cleared up and the project progressing as noted above.
 - c. Ms. Reed questioned if it was still an issue.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states not with this project but Kyle is working to get other concerns addressed.
 - iii. Mr. Zeiber states there have been some delays with other activities. He states he is still looking for guidance from the administration on how to proceed with the No Parking Signs when it comes to City Work.

d. Planting Projects

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the plan for the spring tree plantings. He states he will be performing planting projects in City Park, Centre Park, and Eglemans.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger explains he has chosen these parks due to the amount of trees lost or removed over the last couple of years. He states he believes two dozen or more trees can be planted at each location.
- iii. The commission agrees planting projects should be done of large scale this year.
 1. Pending CoVid-19 a larger project could be considered for Fall 2021

e. EAB treatments 2021

- i. Mr. Kissinger recommends awarding the bid to Klahr Landscape. He notes Klahr was the lowest bid at \$5,869.50. He states only two bids were received. The second was from Arbor Essence LLC for \$7,074.58. He states in total four contractors where solicited. One respectfully declined and the other was a no bid.
 1. Mr. Kissinger asked if he has the Commission's approval to award the treatments to Klahr Landscape.
 - a. Motion was made by Mr. Reimer to approve Klahr Landscape for the 2021 treatments. Seconded by Mr. Moodhart.
 - i. All in favor: 3Ya's, 0 Na's

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continues to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. No one had any comments at this time.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for May 17th, 2021 at 1800 hours.
- c. Mr. Kissinger states planning for Arbor Day 2021 is underway
 - i. Mr. Kissinger notes from the last meetings discussion that tree plantings would occur in City Park, Eglemans Park, and Centre Park
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states there is plenty of open space. He states he is considering planting 8 trees in clusters of 4 in City Park.
 1. Kyle recommended Shade Trees and Ornamentals
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states 3 new trees will be planted in Centre Park and 1 in Eglemans
 - iv. Mr. Kissinger mentions the Met-Ed Forester has funding for Arbor Day. He notes the Forester reached out stating there is about \$1,500 to be spent and that they (Met-Ed) would like to assist with purchasing some trees.
 1. Mr. Kissinger states he was able to work with Met-Ed. He notes Met-Ed has paid for at least 5 or 6 of the trees. The remaining balance is being billed to the City.
- d. Mr. Kissinger reminds the commission that his focus of this years contracted work will continue along the City's Right of Ways. He expressed there are many

trees requiring work along the sweeper routes and upon approaching intersections with line of sight issues. Mr. Kissinger states this work would be done at random based off complaints and visual observations made while out inspecting.

- i. The Commission voiced no objections with the plan.
- e. Mr. Kissinger states he had a meeting at 401 Penn Street to review some of the landscaping plans. He provided a brief updated on the proposed landscaping changes to be more in line with Alvernia Vision.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Mr. Moodhart states he has nothing at this time.
- b. Ms. Yevics questioned about doing a hazardous tree evaluation.
 - i. Mr. Moodhart and Mr. Reimer agree one should be done since nothing was held last year due to CoVid-19 concerns.
 - ii. Ms. Yevics asked if anyone had suggestions on when to perform the evaluation.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger recommends waiting to discuss further at next month's meeting. He notes this would allow at least another month for the leaves to completely emerge on all species.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1730 hours