

RSTC Minutes for April 19th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 1615 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: None

1. Attendance:

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

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. Rev. Bruce Osterhout of Christ Lutheran in Glenside
 - i. Rev. Osterhout explained that he and Donna Reed recently did a walk of sections in the Northwest area of the City. He notes there are multiple areas that could use trees. First being the lot at 641 McKnight Street (parking lot) and second the corner store at Schuylkill Ave and Lehigh formerly Big Johns. He states the store property recently exchanged hands and is now vacant. Rev. Osterhout believes this would be the perfect time to have trees planted pending what comes of the property.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger explains that he can't just force property owners to plant. Kissinger states that would be up to the property owner should they want trees or not.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger notes the property at 641 McKnight is owned by the Parking Authority. Kissinger states he would need to look into the property further at Schuylkill Ave and Lehigh.
 - a. Kissinger states pending the next steps for the property along Schuylkill Ave, there could be the possibility of the owner going to zoning and planning. He states if that's the case it could possibly requiring some type of landscaping plan.
 - iii. Rev. Osterhout states he and the pastor from a Church at Front and Greenwich Street are also considering getting a group of people together that would go out and solicit people to consider planting trees. Mr. Kissinger states he is welcoming to the idea.
 - iv. Mr. Kissinger explained the Adopt a Tree program and how it works. Rev. Osterhout believes this could potentially turn into something good for the community and will continue to explore avenues in moving tree plantings forward in the Northwest section of the City.

3. Review of the minutes from March, 2022
 - a. Motion to approve made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Gockley
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for the months of March
 - a. Removals: 6
 - b. Pruning: 3
 - c. Plantings: 1
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. None
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for the month of March
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 12 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of March
 1. (1) moved to Citation
 2. (12) for re-inspection
 3. (15) Cases open pending Court for the year of 2021
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 1 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2022
 - ii. 0 – Letter of interest for Spring 2022
 - e. Invoices for 2022
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In House work totaling \$7,047.50 for the year
 1. Recent work being storm clean up at Weiser and W. Spring
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$47,221.74 for the year
 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. N. 9th Street from Penn to Buttonwood
 - b. Willow Street from S. 5th to S. 7th
 - c. Spruce Street from S. 3rd to S. 7th
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. None
8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing to report

- b. Capital Budget 2022
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he would like to use the funds for the purchasing of a new truck and the remaining funds would go to a pruning project. The current dump truck could then be used by another department or reallocated.
- 9. New Business
 - a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the current budget status for 2022.
 - b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he is working with Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature for additional plantings this year.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the first planting occurred April 6th at Eglemans Park. Kissinger states 25 additional trees were planted this spring bringing the total of trees plant from fall 2021 until spring 2022 to 50 new trees.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states the next planting is scheduled for Arbor Day, Friday April 26th. Kissinger states 26 trees will be planted at E.J. Dives
 - 1. Kissinger states planting will start at 8am with the help of Berks Nature and Met-Ed green team follow by the proclamation at 1pm.
 - c. EAB (Emerald Ash Bore)
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states Arbor Essence came in as the lowest bidder at \$6,056.83. Kissinger states he solicited 4 contractor with three responding and one no bid.
 - ii. Kissinger states 65 sites were evaluated. He notes only 63 trees will be treated, with two being removed previously. Kissinger notes this will be the third round of treatment for these trees. He reminds the commission this is an ongoing program to try and save as many Ash trees as possible.
 - d. Schlegel Park Pool
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states with the ongoing work it's a possibility of additional tree removals. Kissinger states currently they are looking at the possibility of removing all the pines along the fence line and putting back additional trees to create a screening for privacy.
 - 1. Kissinger states over the last couple years the commission invested about \$15-20,000 in tree work at the pool. Kissinger asked if the commission was willing to continue funding the next round of tree work.
 - a. Mr. Reimer expressed not at this time. Mr. Reimer feels the Shade Tree funds should continue going towards pruning work along the roadways. Mr. Moodhart agreed.
 - 2. The commission agrees not to move forward using Shade Tree funds to support the pool project.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th, 2022 at 1600 hours due to a scheduling conflict.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forester management plan. Kissinger notes this plan will also look to address the line of site concerns at the look outs along Skyline Drive.
 - i. Mr. Reimer expressed the need to have the look outs addressed.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1800 hours