

RSTC Minutes for April 8th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 1608 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: Meeting held with lack of a quorum.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Vacant – Member
 - c. Vacant – Member
 - d. Vacant – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member - **Absent**
 - f. Pamela S Gockley – Member
 - g. Melissa Ventura – City Council
 - h. David Moodhart - Support
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from March 2024
 - a. Motion to approve made by _____, seconded by _____
 - i. All in favor, no objections
 1. ****Unable to approve, no quorum****
4. Report of permits for 2024
 - a. Removals: six
 - b. Pruning: none
 - c. Plantings: none
 - d. Treatment none
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. EnerGov – on going.
 - ii. Protect Boxwood against Blight and the Box Tree Moth
 - iii. Professional Pest Management School – Updates
 - iv. Penn-Del ISA Shade Tree Symposium
 - v. Trees and the Law #2 – Competing interest in Street Trees
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for March 2024.
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. Four for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations from Jan through Feb
 1. (0) moved to Citation.

2. (1) for re-inspection coming up.
3. (5) Cases pending Court for the year of 2023
4. (3) closed cases in 2024

d. Adopt-a-Tree.

- i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2024
- ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Fall 2024
 1. 1100 block N. 11th Street

e. Invoices for 2024

- i. 0 – to property owners
- ii. In Housework totaling \$33,475.00 for the year
 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. None

iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$8,679 for the year.

1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. August
 - i. Tulpehocken St (Removal Tree of Heaven)
 - ii. Penn St 400 & 500 Block (Pruning)

6. Request for Variance in having to replant.

- a. None

7. Review of Zoning Plans

- a. Mitsubishi Chemical Land Development
- b. Greening Reading's Penn Street
- c. 138 S. 8th St
- d. 338 N. 6th St
- e. Shuman Development Group

8. Old Business

- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states a hazard tree will be removed from Reading Iron.
- b. Capital Budget 2024
 - i. Renewal of the Deer Management Plan with USDA
 - ii. Treatment of overlooks – vegetation management

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2024 budget.

- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Schlegel Park – 15 new trees
 - ii. Hampden Park – 6 new trees
 - iii. City Park – 3 new trees
- c. Arbor Day 2024 will be the City's 39th year taking part.
 - i. Tree planting in City Park in conjunction with the 275th Anniversary and Time Capsule
 - 1. To be held Friday, April 26th at 10am
- d. Contracts
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he is working on the Ash Tree Treatment
 - 1. Two estimates were received, and one not interested.
 - a. Bartlett Tree Experts will be awarded at a cost of \$7,198.13.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger says the next meeting will be Monday, May 13th, 2024, at 1600 hours.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forester management plan.
- c. Grant Application
 - i. The Grant is the Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Funds (USDA Forest Service) - \$4 million available for projects that deliver 100% of the benefits to disadvantaged communities, as determined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and/or Pennsylvania EnviroScience. No match required; cannot be combined with other Community and Watershed Forestry project types; funding provided on a reimbursement basis for activities as they are completed. The U.S. Forest Service and Inflation Reduction Act will be acknowledged as a funding source for work performed under these grants, including any future signage requirements. Construction activities and equipment purchase (over \$5000 per item) not allowable.
 - 1. Paperwork was submitted requesting \$400,000 to be used to conduct an inventory, pruning projects, and education.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Gockley, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1700 hours.