

RSTC Minutes for August 12th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 1605 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: None

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Lori Bellman – Member
 - c. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - d. Pamela Gockley – Member
 - e. Vacant – Member
 - f. Vacant – Member
 - g. Melissa Ventura – City Council - **ABSENT**
 - h. David Moodhart - Support
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from July 2024
 - a. Motion to approve made by Lori Bellman, seconded by Thomas Ryan
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for 2024
 - a. Removals: thirty
 - b. Pruning: eleven
 - c. Plantings: thirty - two
 - d. Treatment none
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. None
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for July 2024.
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. Three for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations from July.
 1. (3) moved to Citation.
 2. (0) for re-inspection coming up.
 3. (4) Cases pending Court for the year of 2023
 4. (13) closed cases in 2024

- d. Adopt-a-Tree.
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2024
 - ii. 2 – Letter of interest for Fall 2024
 - 1. 1100 block N. 11th Street – Pending Utility Evaluation
 - 2. 1400 block N. 11th Street – Pending removal, stump, and making the tree pit larger.
- e. Invoices for 2024
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In Housework totaling \$60,893.75 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. Storm varies locations.
 - b. Victory Pl & Trooper Rd
 - c. 1600 Olive St
 - d. Essick Playground
 - e. City Park around N. 12th & Walnut St
 - f. 2000 Hill Rd
 - g. Blair Av
 - h. Schlegel Park
 - i. 405 S. 5th
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$75,841.18 for the year.
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. City Park
 - b. Penske Boat Ramp
 - c. Schlegel Pool
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant.
 - a. None
- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. 317 Franklin St
 - b. 1029 Buttonwood St
 - c. 401 N. 10th
 - d. Our City Reading helping Harvest Annex
 - e. Alvernia American House
 - f. McDonalds – N. & Spring
 - g. Bern St Car Wash
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states that additional hazardous trees are to be removed in City Park.

- b. Capital Budget 2024
 - i. Renewal of the Deer Management Plan with USDA for 2024-2025 season
 - ii. Treatment of overlooks – vegetation management
 - iii. New Truck has arrived.
9. New Business
- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2024 budget and spoke briefly about the 2025 budget. Mr. Kissinger states he is asking for a slight increase in general plant line item to cover the increase in price for trees.
 - b. Planting Projects for Fall
 - i. All numbers are tentative until sites are marked.
 - 1. Schlegel Park – 15 new trees
 - 2. Riverfront Park – 5 new trees
 - 3. City Park – 15 new trees
 - 4. S. 7th along Railroad Tracks – 7 new trees
 - c. Arbor Day 2025 will be the City's 40th year taking part.
 - i. Ideas
 - d. Contracts
 - i. Nothing to report.
10. Information:
- a. Mr. Kissinger says the next meeting will be Monday, September 9th, 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.
11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:
- a. Hazardous Tree – 901 Centre Av
 - b. Hazardous Tree – 4th & Bingaman
 - c. Hazardous Tree – 201 Douglass St
 - d. Questionable tree removal – 1156 Franklin St
 - e. Hazardous Tree – Old Red Cross Building
 - f. Stump – 13th & Greenwich.
 - g. Sidewalk Concern – Barta Transportation Cherry St
 - h. Hazardous Tree – 1300 Hampden Blvd
12. Adjournment:
- a. Motion to adjourn by Lori Bellman, seconded by Pam Gockley at 1710 hours.