

RSTC Minutes for January 17th, 2019

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

Note: There was no meeting in December, 2018. This meeting is covering topics for both November, 2018 and December, 2018

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator
 - b. David Moodhart – Member
 - c. Robert Reimer – Member, Acting Chairman
 - d. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - e. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - f. John Denick – Support
 - g. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - h. Ralph Johnson – Public Works Director
2. Guests:
 - a. Andrew Molteni
3. Appeal Hearing
 - a. There was an appeal presented to the Commission by Mr. Molteni with respect to a Notice of Violation he received regarding the tree in front of his property. Mr. Kissinger explained the process of how the hearing will be conducted. At the conclusion of the process Mr. Reimer took over conducting the hearing.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger started by explaining the Notice of Violation. Mr. Kissinger went through each violation as noted and explained how he came to his conclusion. Mr. Kissinger then provided a brief history of events leading up to Mr. Molteni receiving this notice.
 - ii. Mr. Reimer thanked Mr. Kissinger for the information. Mr. Reimer then asked Mr. Molteni to explain his side.
 - iii. Mr. Molteni started off introducing himself. He then went on to explain the reason of why he planted the tree at this location in question. He states he believes his neighbors are the problem and keep vandalizing his tree. He notes there have been even cases where the police needed to be called. He expressed there is no reason for this notice and that the tree should remain. He states that if over time the tree becomes a problem he would then remove it at that time.
 1. Mr. Molteni expressed it's not fair that he is being singled out when there are other problems throughout the neighborhood that should be addressed.
 2. Mr. Molteni states he has nothing else to offer. Thanks the Commission members for their time and this opportunity.
 - iv. The Commission thanked Mr. Molteni for coming in.

- b. Mr. Molteni left at this time. Mr. Reimer opened it up for discussion amongst everyone at the table. Each member had the opportunity to express their feelings about what was presented.
 - i. Mr. Reimer motions to conduct a vote on whether the tree should be removed or if it can remain. Motion was seconded by Ms. Yevics.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger asked how many are in favor of removal. All members' presents stated yes. Mr. Kissinger asked if any was in favor of the tree being able to remain. Silence amongst members at this time.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger asked for an explanation for justification on everyone voting in favor of removal.
 - i. Mr. Moodhart states the tree shouldn't be there. It's the wrong tree for that site. He expressed that the tree is a problem now and will be a bigger problem later.
 - ii. Ms. Yevics, Mr. Reimer, and Mr. Thomas agree.
 - 1. Ms. Yevics states if something isn't done now this will just keep coming back up.
 - iii. Mr. Denick asked if he could make a suggestion. Mr. Reimer states sure. Mr. Denick expressed about removing the tree and transplanting into an elevated planter or elsewhere in the City with approval.
 - 1. Mr. Johnson states he likes that idea. Commission members also state the same.
 - 2. Mr. Denick offers this would help slow the growth but won't correct any issue that still may arise in the future.
 - iv. Mr. Reimer states this would be a suggestion that could be made to Mr. Molteni but the original decision voted upon still stands that a removal is warranted per the notice.
 - v. Mr. Kissinger states he would offer an additional 30 days as well before advancing to Citation.
4. Mr. Kissinger states next on the agenda is Mr. Denick. He notes Mr. Denick would like to present and idea for a memorial on the recent passing of Mr. Slifko.
- a. Mr. Denick states Mr. Slifko (John) was a good man. He notes all the work he put into the commission and planting trees for the last 30 plus years or so. He states in memory John for all the hard work he has done instead of just planting trees he has an idea of a small pocket park in remembrance.
 - i. Everyone was onboard with the idea.
 - ii. Mr. Johnson states there will be a process that needs to be follow once the ideas come together.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger read an email received from Linda Keller that Centre Park Committee wants to be involved to. He also notes that the Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter of ISA would like to help and also donate the tree.
 - b. Mr. Reimer asked that all parties be invited to next month's meeting to discuss further.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger will make arrangements for that to occur.

5. Review of the minutes from November, 2018
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Thomas.
 - i. All were in favor. 4y, 0n
6. Report of permits
 - a. For November, 2018
 - i. Removals – 6
 - ii. Pruning – 2
 - iii. Planting – 11
 - b. For December, 2018
 - i. Removals – 4
 - ii. Pruning – 4
 - iii. Plantings – 0
 - c. Total for 2018
 - i. Removals – 74
 - ii. Pruning – 29
 - iii. Plantings - 77
7. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. Community Forestry Workshop in Montgomery Township
 - ii. Professional Pest Management School in Grantville
 - iii. Financing Urban Tree Canopy Workshop in Washington, DC – Guest speaker at this event
 - b. 3 – Notifications for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners
 - c. 10 – Notice of Violations issued for hazardous trees, vacant pits
 - d. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreements
 - e. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
 - f. 4 – Invoices for In House work for November and December 2018 totaling \$1,420.00
 - g. 4 – Contractor Invoices for November and December 2018 totaling \$8,942.26 (Nolde Pines)
 - i. Grand total for in house work for 2018 - \$ 91,332.50
 - ii. Grand total for contracted work for 2018 - \$ 168,802.33
 - h. 2 – Letters of interest received for the Spring 2019 Adopt-a-Tree
8. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
9. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. None
10. Old Business
 - a. Ordinance

- b. Mr. Kissinger states the ordinance was revised and is still with legal. He noted that language was added for the appeal process and a few minor other changes needed to be reviewed. He hopes to have thing back in time for next month meeting.
- b. Budget
 - a. Mr. Kissinger gave a brief over view of some changes in the budget. He states he will have a few together for next month meeting.
- c. Spotted Lanternfly
 - a. Mr. Yevics spoke briefly about kits that Penn State put together for scrapping egg masses. She states she thinks it was a really good idea and the possibility of maybe looking into doing something like that for the residents.
 - b. Mr. Denick suggested putting together another community meeting for the spring.
- d. New Business
 - a. Mr. Thompson states he is working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with a project to plant 10 million trees. He states this would be a good thing for the City to take part in and has already proposed the idea to the Foundation. He will provide more details at a future meeting.
- e. Information
 - a. None
- f. RSTC Observations / Concerns
 - a. None
- g. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Thomas at 2015 hours.