

RSTC Minutes for January 21st, 2020

Note this meeting conducted business for the month November and December due to the December meeting being the annual Holiday Diner.

Meeting called to order at 1805 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member, Acting Chairman
 - c. David Moodhart – Member
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Vacant – City Council
 - g. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - h. John Denick – Support
 - i. Ken Roth – Support
 - j. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from November, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Reimer
 - i. All in favor. 4y, 0n
4. Report of permits
 - a. For November, 2019
 - i. Removals – 2
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 6
 - b. For December, 2019
 - i. Removals – 3
 - ii. Pruning – 0
 - iii. Plantings – 0
 - c. End of the year (2019) totals
 - i. Removals – 75
 - ii. Pruning – 24
 - iii. Planting – 18
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. One for the month of November, TCIA Expo in Pittsburg
 - ii. None in December
 - b. 0 – Letters sent out to property owner during the month of November and December.

- c. 1 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of November
 - i. (1) are in citation
 - ii. (0) for re-inspection
 - iii. (0) have complied
 - d. 1 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of December
 - i. (1) are in citation
 - e. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2020
 - f. 1 – Invoices to property owner 400 N. 5th St. for failure to comply in December totaling \$2,089.58
 - g. 1 – Invoices for In House work during November totaling \$1,100.00 and (0) for the month of December totaling \$0.00
 - i. This work consisted of removal at River Road and Elkton and general storm clean up
 - h. 3 – Contractor Invoices for November totaling \$10,097.50 (Nolde Pines), and (4) for the month of December totaling \$4,815.52.
 - i. 10th South Playground, Front & Schiller, 1900 N. Front, Riverfront Park, Lincoln St., 400 N. 5th, City Park Stump
 - i. 1 – Letters of interest received for the Spring 2020 Adopt-a-Tree
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. None
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Ordinance:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reports there has been some movement with this since the last meeting. He notes the Clerk's office took up interest. He states there were some additional changes suggested by the City Clerk which were made. He states it has since been sent back for their review and to be forwarded to legal.
 - 1. Remains Tabled awaiting a response
 - ii. Draft Ordinance Review by the Commission handout in May
 - 1. Commission has asked for more time to review.
 - a. Tabled
 - b. Memorial Tree for Mr. Slifko
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the PA One Call for design came back clear for utilities in the proposed location at N.3rd and Centre Ave triangle. He notes that Mr. Denick and a member of Centre Park will be working on the design phase together to present a draft plan.
 - 1. No additional comments on the matter at this time.
 - a. Mr. Denick states he has not heard back from Centre Park

- ii. Mr. Kissinger will try and schedule both John Denick and Mike Lauter to attend a meeting to provide an update.
 - 1. Mr. Denick states he never heard back from anyone.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states there has been no new conversations about this as of the end of year. He notes he will look to re-visit early this year (2020).
- c. 908 Rose St.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger notes he received a 25 page Arbitration request about the appeal the commission ruled on. Copies were distributed previously.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states after speaking with Linda Kelleher Council will not be taking action on the matter. Linda states the Commission should consider moving to the next step.
 - 1. A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yevics to advance the NOV's to Citation.
 - a. All in favor. 3Y, 0N
 - 2. Mr. Kissinger will issue citations and keep the Commission posted on the status moving forward.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger notes a Court Date has been set for September 17th, 2019 at 1400 hours
 - i. Court has been rescheduled till Nov due to request for continuance.
 - ii. Court date is set for November 26th at 2pm.
 - 3. Mr. Kissinger provides an update that two of the three citations were dropped. He notes the owner was found guilty on failure to comply with tree specifications in regards to proper planting. The owner was very vocal during the hearing and is now appealing to the Court of Common Plea. Mr. Kissinger states he will provide further updates as this continues to move forward.
 - a. Mr. Ryan asked if he hired an attorney. Mr. Kissinger states yes.
- d. Arbor Day 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that Arbor Day 2020 will be the 35th Anniversary the City has been participating in the Tree City USA program. He asked the Commission begin thinking about what ideas they might have for this event.
 - 1. Some ideas presented are:
 - a. Mass planting in City Park
 - b. Replanting the trees along Centre Ave at Charles Evans Commentary
 - c. Working with the School District
 - d. A day of Service either in a park or Commentary
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states he would definitely like to see 35 trees planted for sure to coincide with the number of years receiving the designation as Tree City USA.

1. Mr. Kissinger reminds the commission that their help is really important when trying to accomplish this goal.

e. Park Assessments

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments are going well. He notes Nolde Pines has completed work at Brookline Playground, EJ Dives, Reading Iron, Schlegel Park, 2nd & Oley, 3rd & Spruce, Front & Schiller, and 10th & South in 2019.
 1. Work being done at the parks includes removals, pruning, crown raising, etc.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger reminds the commission that City Park and Neversink were done in 2018, Centre Park was done in 2015.

f. State EAB Treatment Reimbursement

- i. Mr. Kissinger states he will seek reimbursement for the amount of \$4,324.69 for the EAB treatment program in 2019. He notes that the inter-governmental agreement has been renewed for the years 2019 thru 2021 and reminds everyone that this is a 50:50 match.
 1. Mr. Kissinger states the invoice has been submitted and awaiting payment.
 2. Mr. Kissinger states he will begin this year's evaluations for treatment shortly.

9. New Business

a. Budget:

- i. Mr. Kissinger did a yearend review of the budget for 2019. He also did a budget review for the start of 2020.

b. Tree Plantings

- i. The Citizens Climate Control group has reached back out to continue partnering with the City and the Commission to continue planting trees throughout the community. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that they were very supportive during the fall plantings and even obtained students from Penn State Berks to assist in the plantings. He notes that Penn States has interest in continuing to provide students with the opportunity to get involved with planting of trees as part of the volunteer hours.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states he has been in contact with Citizens Climate Control and Penn State with hope to have at least 2 or 3 groups of 4 students to assist with planting this spring. He notes the involvement from member of the commission would be a great help as well.
 1. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Denick, and Mr. Roth both stated they would love to help if it could be a weekend planting perhaps on a Sunday.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger states he doesn't foresee that being an issues and will check with the students during the meeting with them.

- c. Shade Tree Work Permit
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he has considered updating the Shade Tree Permit Application. He notes it been sometime since it has been looked at. Mr. Zeiber notes he believes he was the last one to create the document when employed by the City previously.
 - 1. Mr. Reimer supports the idea and asked that when the final draft is completed it be presented for review.
- d. Projects for 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger laid out a plan for the upcoming year. He notes he would like to continue moving around the parks to complete ones that haven't been touch yet. He also makes mention of pruning trees along the sweeper routes and clearance of overhead traffic signals obstructed by limbs on approach. Some of the areas mentioned are:
 - 1. Barbie Playground, Baer Park, 6th & Amity, Pendora, Hillside, intersections were line of site to overheads are obstructed, Summit Chase Street lighting project.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continuously is working to address the commission concerns. He notes he is making good progress when scheduling allows.
- b. Next meeting is scheduled for February 18th, 2020

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Reimer at 1925 hours.