

## **RSTC Minutes for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 1810 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

**Note: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting was canceled due to weather related incidents and not having a quorum to conduct a meeting.**

1. Attendance:
  - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator
  - b. Robert Reimer – Member, Acting Chairman – **Absent (Medical)**
  - c. David Moodhart – Member
  - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
  - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
  - f. Brian Twyman – City Council – **Absent**
  - g. Jeff Thompson – Support
  - h. John Denick – Support – **Absent**
  - i. Ralph Johnson – Public Works Director
2. Presenters / Guests:
  - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from May, 2019
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yevics
    - i. All in favor. 3y, 0n
4. Report of permits
  - a. For May, 2019
    - i. Removals – 8
    - ii. Pruning – 5
    - iii. Planting – 1
  - b. For June, 2019
    - i. Removals – 4
    - ii. Pruning – 1
    - iii. Planting – 0
5. Arborist Report
  - a. Classes Attended
    - i. None in May, Deciduous Shrub Identification – Penn State Berks
  - b. 0 – Notifications for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of May & June
  - c. 4 – Notice of Violations issued for hazardous trees, vacant pits (total for the month of May and June)
  - d. 2 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreement for Fall of 2019
  - e. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
  - f. 14 – Invoices for In House work during May & June 2019 totaling \$27,930.00
  - g. 7 – Contractor Invoices for May & June 2019 totaling \$37,193.58 (Nolde Pines)

- h. 1 – Contractor Invoice for EAB Treatments month of June totaling \$8,649.36
    - i. 0 – Letters of interest received for the Fall 2019 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 states the ordinance is still with legal. He has received no response on the status and continues to work with Mr. Johnson to get this back.
      - 1. Remains Tabled
    - ii. Draft Ordinance Review by the Commission handout in May
      - 1. Commission has asked for more time to review.
        - a. Tabled
  - b. Budget:
    - i. Mr. Kissinger did a review of the budget until the end of June.
  - c. 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.3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
  - d. 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.
  - e. 2019 Ash Tree Treatment Program
    - i. Mr. Kissinger states Ash Treatment for 2019 have been completed. He notes this was the second round of treatments for this group of trees which were initially treated in 2016.
      - 1. Arbor Essence treated 65 Fraxinus trees for a total price of \$8,649.38. Next round of treatments for this group is to occur in 2022

- f. Arbor Day 2020
    - i. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that Arbor Day 2020 will be the 35<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - g. Park Assessments
    - i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments are going well. He notes Nolde Pines has completed work at Brookline Playground, EJ Dives and Reading Iron so far this year. Work being done at these parks includes removals, pruning, crown raising, etc.
    - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the contractor is currently working at Schlegel Park and should be completed shortly.
9. New Business
- a. Spotted Lanternfly
    - i. Mr. Kissinger is working to obtain banding material. He notes he reached out to Catch Master who states there vendors are Lowes and Home Depot.
      - 1. Mr. Kissinger continues to follow up with other vendors but has been unsuccessful.
    - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the issue has not been as bad as last year. He states while evaluating Skyline Drive the nymphs are minimal to this time last year when evaluation were conducted. He notes that other have also expressed the same observations.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Accepting Fall Adopt-a-Tree Applications
    - i. Mr. Kissinger states he currently has two agreements on file for the fall.
    - ii. He reminds everyone that he is still accepting applications.
  - d. Penn Street Pruning
    - i. Mr. Kissinger had a meeting with Council President, Linda Kelleher, Cindy Castner, and Aaron Gantz this afternoon about pruning along Penn Street. Mr. Kissinger states the last time pruning along this stretch was completed was in 2015 from N. 2<sup>nd</sup> to N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Pruning only included raising of the canopies, clearing obstructed street lights and overhead traffic signals.
      - 1. Mr. Kissinger states this project would include full pruning of all trees (approximately 151) to improve the astatic throughout the entire canopy to include crown raising, removal of all dead, dying, diseased, decayed wood, to improve the overall health and reduction off structures, etc.
    - ii. Mr. Kissinger asked if the Commission would support such a project if there was a shared funding (public & private). He notes that Aaron

original approached the City about this and would do the leg work to get the business owners to buy in and assist with funding.

1. The commission states they would. Ms. Yevics states this a good idea and any partnership is always a good thing.
  - a. Mr. Johnson questions if we would be allow to perform such a project without violating the ordinance. He notes the ordinance only allows us to perform work within the right-a-way or anything hindering public safety. He states this could set a presented and could lead to other issues.
    - i. Mr. Kissinger states it could and notes that Council President feels the commission should be looking to do this with the funds Shade Tree has to work with.
    - ii. Mr. Thompson express concerns that if there is a partnership some type of contract needs to be in place when it comes to payment and who is responsible for what share and how much.
      1. Ms. Yevics and Mr. Moodhart agree.
        - a. Mr. Johnson states yes, at some point legal will need to be involved.
    - iii. Ms. Yevics states that in theory yes the commission would support such a project but there is a lot more details that would need to be worked out before such a project would commence.
  - b. Mr. Johnson states depending on the amount this project would need to go out for formal bid. Mr. Kissinger states he is going to seek three proposals. Mr. Johnson recommends holding off on that for the time being and suggest Mr. Kissinger re-visit Penn Street and put a dollar amount to the project for what the City would be responsible for in regards to public safety. Mr. Johnson states we would then need to figure out what the other cost would be.
  - c. Ms. Yevics express that it only makes sense to do everything at once from a cost aspect vs. having to go back in a second time.
2. Mr. Kissinger states he will work on re-evaluating Penn Street and provide an update at the next meeting with regards to how things are going.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continuously is working to address the commission concerns. He notes he is making progress when time allows.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1945 hours.