

RSTC Minutes for July 10th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1610 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: The meetings for May and June were cancelled.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member – **ABSENT, Medical**
 - c. **Vacant – Member**
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Pamela S Gockley – Member
 - g. Donna Reed – City Council – **ABSENT**
 - h. David Moodhart - Support
 - i. Jeff Thompson – Support - **ABSENT**
 - j. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager / Deputy PW Director - **ABSENT**
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from April 2023
 - a. Motion to approve made by Mrs. Gockley, seconded by Mrs. Yevics
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for 2023
 - a. Removals: 44
 - b. Pruning: 11
 - c. Plantings: 56
 - d. Treatment 0
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. EnerGov – on going
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for the months of April, May, and June
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 30 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for April, May, and June
 1. (7) moved to Citation
 2. (0) for re-inspection coming up.
 3. (7) Cases pending Court for the year of 2023

- d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2023
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Fall 2023

 - e. Invoices for 2023
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In Housework totaling \$42,063.75 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. **April**
 - i. Schlegels Park
 - ii. 1349 Mineral Spring Rd
 - iii. Egleman Ball Field
 - iv. Multiple locations see Invoice.
 - b. **May**
 - i. 919 N. 4th St
 - ii. Duryea Drive
 - iii. Pendora Park
 - iv. Montgomery St & Columbus
 - v. Schlegels Park
 - c. **June**
 - i. 1600 Hampden Blvd
 - ii. 3rd & Spruce Playground
 - iii. Lorriane Rd & Perry
 - iv. City Park, 106 Building
 - v. Hillside Playground
 - vi. Oak Lane & Lorraine
 - vii. Duryea Drive Clean up Rich Rock
 - viii. 715 Lehigh St
 - ix. Schlegels Park Play Area
 - x. 200 S. 7th
 - xi. 1000 Elm
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- iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$77,388.30 for the year.
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. **APRIL**
 - i. Tree pruning N.E., N&S Walnut to Spring
 - b. **MAY**
 - i. Tree pruning N.E., N&S Walnut to Spring
 - ii. Lance Pl
 - c. **JUNE**
 - i. Tree pruning N.E., N&S Walnut to Spring
 - ii. Schlegel Park
 - iii. 500 Blk Penn St center Island
 - iv. Reading Parking Authority
 - v. Schlegel Park

- vi. Varies throughout City (EAB Treatments)
- vii. Tree pruning N.E., N&S Walnut to Spring
- viii. Eglemans
- d. \$39,000 of this was to prune Walnut to Spring, 13th to 8th all material over the cart way.

- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None

- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. Lichty's Mennonite Church
 - b. Wawa (N. 11th St)
 - c. 615-619 Walnut St
 - d. Holy Trinity Church of God
 - e. 138 S. 8th St
 - f. 531 Upland Av
 - g. First Energy Stadium
 - h. Bern St. Carwash
 - i. Bern St. Storage
 - j. Iglesia Pentecostal Church
 - k. 2120 Fairmont Av
 - l. Goggle Works
 - m. Mitsubishi Chemical Sketch Plan

- 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing to report
 - b. Capital Budget 2023
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing new to report

- 9. New Business
 - a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2023 budget.
 - b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the plan is to continue planting at Schlegel Park this fall. More details to come in the coming months.
 - c. Arbor Day 2023 was successful in the City's 38th year participating.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger thanked Reading High School for hosting the ceremony. He states 28 new trees were planted in front of the High School.

d. Contracts

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the tree contract was awarded to the two Nolde Pines
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states the Weed and Vegetation contract was awarded to Bartlett Tree Experts

e. Ordinance

i. Fees.

1. Mr. Kissinger states currently there are no fees associated for trees. He notes the fee schedule is listed under the city's codified ordinance 212-143, Ordinance No. 42-1973.
2. Mr. Kissinger states if the commission is looking to enact a fee schedule it will require an ordinance amendment. He notes the commission would need to decide what fees would be associated with this section.
 - a. Mrs. Gockley states there should be a fee for the permit. She tossed around the idea of \$25.00. She also liked the idea of a fee associated with the plan reviews.
3. Mr. Kissinger states he will work on a draft to present at the next scheduled meeting. He states at that time a review of the draft can occur and if everything looks good he can then move it forward to present to City Council.
4. The commission supports the idea of a fee schedule. Mrs. Gockley states she believes the fee schedule will help raise awareness that the commission is engaged in prompting proper healthy tree care. She notes with having a fee it is hopeful that it will engage the responsible party who applies for the permit more accountable.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14th, 2023 at 1600 hours.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forest management plan.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Mr. Moodhart provided a written list of tree hazards to be addressed.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will work on it as time permits.
- b. Mrs. Gockley voices frustration over stumps not being removed.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he does not have enforcement rights for stumps located in the front yard outside the right of way. He states he will look into the address provided as time permits.

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1715 hours