

RSTC Minutes for July 8th, 2024

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

Special Notes: No meeting in June due to lack of quorum.

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

- d. Adopt-a-Tree.
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2024
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Fall 2024
 - 1. 1100 block N. 11th Street – Pending Utility Evaluation
 - e. Invoices for 2024
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In Housework totaling \$49,131.00 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. 900 Madison Ave
 - b. Stone Cliff Trail
 - c. Camp Lily
 - d. Engleman Park
 - e. Bridle Path
 - f. Duryea Drive
 - g. Oak Lane
 - h. Eckert Ave
 - i. Keffer Park
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$68,881 for the year.
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. 3rd & Douglass
 - b. Centre Av at the Stadium
 - c. Centre Park
 - d. Blair Ave
 - e. Stueben Road
 - f. Camp Lily
 - g. City Park
 - h. Penske Boat Ramp
 - i. Schlegel Pool
6. Request for Variance in having to replant.
- a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans
- a. 35 N. 6th St
 - b. RSD Thomas Ford Elementary School
 - c. 138 S. 8th St
 - d. 338 N. 6th St
 - e. 1712 Hill Road
 - f. 2040 Centre Ave
 - g. 317 Franklin St
 - h. Mitsubishi Chemical Annexation

- 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states a few hazardous trees will 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
- 9. New Business
 - a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2024 budget and spoke briefly about the 2025 budget. Mr. Kissinger noted he is asking for a small 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. Mr. Kissinger states the Ash Tree Treatments went well. He notes that Bartlett Tree Experts was awarded at a cost of \$7,198.13 and treatments were finished late May early June.
- 10. Information:
 - a. Mr. Kissinger says the next meeting will be Monday, August 12th, 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.
 - c. Mr. Kissinger reminded the group of the Grant Application that was submitted.
 - i. The Grant is the Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Funds (USDA Forest Service) - \$4 million available for projects that deliver 100% of the benefits to disadvantaged communities, as determined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and/or Pennsylvania EnviroScience. No match required; cannot be combined with other Community and Watershed Forestry project types; funding provided on a reimbursement basis for activities as they are completed. The U.S. Forest Service and Inflation Reduction Act will be acknowledged as a funding source for work performed under these grants, including any future

signage requirements. Construction activities and equipment purchase (over \$5000 per item) not allowable.

1. Paperwork was submitted requesting \$400,000 to be used to conduct an inventory, pruning projects, and education.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Hazardous Tree – 200 block W. Douglass St
- b. Hazardous Tree – 200 block S. 8th St
- c. Hazardous Tree – S.W. Corner of 9th & Washington St
- d. Stump – 300 block S. 8th St.
- e. Stump – Bern & Olive St
- f. Stump – 500 block Upland Av
- g. Stump – 1100 block Hampden Blvd
- h. Hazardous Tree – 400 block Court St
- i. Hazardous Tree – 200 block N. 5th St
- j. Hazardous Tree – 435 S. 5th St
- k. Hazardous Tree – 162 W. Oley
- l. Hazardous Tree – 222 Penn St
- m. Hazardous Tree – 400 block Douglass St on N. 4th

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Lori Bellman, seconded by Pam Gockley at 1700 hours.