

RSTC Minutes for May 16th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1815 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. 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 April, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ryan.
 - i. All were in favor. 4y, 0n
4. Report of permits
 - a. For April, 2019
 - i. Removals – 10
 - ii. Pruning – 5
 - iii. Planting – 9
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. None
 - b. 0 – Notifications for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners
 - c. 7 – Notice of Violations issued for hazardous trees, vacant pits
 - d. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreement for Fall of 2019
 - e. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
 - f. 4 – Invoices for In House work during April 2019 totaling \$8,780.00
 - g. 6 – Contractor Invoices for April 2019 totaling \$49,357.55 (Nolde Pines)
 - h. 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 states he is working with Mr. Johnson to get this back so the Commission can review.
 - 1. Tabled
 - a. Ms. Yevics voices concern that this has been over a year now and still no action.
 - i. Mr. Johnson states once returned from legal he will allow the commission to review under draft format.
- ii. Ordinance was handed out to Commission in Draft format for their review. It is still with legal and hasn't been returned yet.
 - 1. This should be discussed at next meeting in case the Commission has any additional input.

b. Budget:

- i. Mr. Kissinger did a review of the budget up until the end of April. Next scheduled review should occur June 2019

c. Memorial Tree for Mr. Slifko

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the PA One Call for design has come back clear of utilities. 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 have been distributed.
- ii. Mr. Johnson notes that if the commission stands by their decision that they should direct Mr. Kissinger to draft a letter for their review and have it back to council before noon Monday.
 - 1. Mr. Reimer agrees and states the commission stand by their decision of upholding the notice. He states the commission is open to discuss there decision with council if they have any question.
- iii. Mr. Kissinger states he will draft a letter and have it for Mr. Reimer to review Monday morning before submitting to City Council.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states the letter was presented to City Council March 25th, 2019
- iv. Mr. Reimer motions to table the matter while in appeal to council. Seconded by Mr. Ryan.
 - 1. All in favor. 3y, 0n
- v. Mr. Johnson would like a reminder sent to City Council on their stance regarding this matter.

e. 2019 Ash Tree Treatment Program

- i. Mr. Kissinger states he finalized the Ash Treatment list for 2019. He notes this will be the beginning of the second round of treatments for this group of trees with the first round occurring in 2016.

1. Mr. Kissinger states 5 contractors were solicited to provide a bid for this work. He states all bids are due by the close of business on March 22nd.
 - a. He states he has received two bids. One from Arbor Essence LLC and the second from Klahr Landscaping
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states that Arbor Essence LLC has been awarded the 2019 treatment program. Arbor Essence will be treating 65 Fraxinus trees at an estimated total of 26 hours for a price of \$8,649.38. He adds that Klahr Landscaping was the lowest bid at \$6,077.50 but failed to follow the bid specs under the application spec #3 stating using Air Hydraulic / Quik-jet. Klahr propose a quote using the IV system.
 - b. Mr. Kissinger states he choose the hire bidder since they were the most qualified and follow the application specifications.
 - ii. Trees are currently being treated. Treatment cycle should be wrapped up with in the next two weeks weather permitting.
- f. Mr. Thompson volunteered to plant the tree at 217 Clifton Ave. The planting has been completed on May 15th, 2019.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger thanked Mr. Thompson for taking care of the matter.
- g. Arbor Day was held April 26th, 2019
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the ceremony was held at First Energy Stadium on the N. Front Street Side. He noted 8 Acer tataricum were planted.

9. New Business

- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments of the parks is going well. He notes that Nolde Pines has completed work at Brookline Playground, and EJ Dives by doing removals, pruning, and crown raising. He states Nolde Pines will then be moving to Reading Iron.
- b. SLF Tape
 - i. Mr. Kissinger is working to obtain. He notes he reached out to Catch Master who states there vendors are Lowes and Home Depot. He states that the vendor stated there currently on back order.
 1. Mr. Kissinger will continue to follow up with other vendors.
- c. State EAB Treatment Reimbursement
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states has received reimbursement for the amount of \$3,340.50 for the EAB treatment program in 2018. He notes that the inter-governmental agreement has been renewed for the years 2019 thru 2021. He reminds everyone that this is a 50:50 match.
- d. Accepting Fall Adopt-a-Tree Applications
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he currently has no applications on file yet for the fall. He states he will advise at a later meeting once applications start coming in.

- e. Taking Control over all street trees.
 - i. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kissinger did a brief overview of what it would cost to bring all the street trees under control of the City.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states at this time he estimates that if the City and the Commission were to take on such a task it would be at a cost of approximately 3.36 million.
 - a. Mr. Johnson states at this time such a task wouldn't be doable but is open for suggestions.
 - i. Mr. Reimer suggested raising the tax the commission receives from a tenth of a mill to half a mill. He believes this would cover the cost if we broke it down over a five year period.
 - b. Mr. Johnson states that would be a possibility but would need the administration and City Councils approval. He states he is open for suggestion and looks forward to additional talks about the matter once the new ordinance is approved.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Johnson states that Spotted Lantern Fly issues should be discussed on a regular basis at our meetings. He would like to see it add to the agenda monthly.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

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