

RSTC Minutes for May 18th, 2020

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

Special Notes:

- Meeting was held at Public Works outside with social distancing measure in place. All the necessary safety precautions were in place and all participants wore Mask.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member
 - c. David Moodhart – Member, **ABSENT**
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Donna Reed – City Council, **ABSENT**
 - g. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - h. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
 - i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from April, 2020
 - 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 April, 2020
 - i. Removals – 1
 - ii. Pruning – 0
 - iii. Planting – 1
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. Oak Wilt - Webinar
 - ii. Forest Health, Insect, and Disease Briefing – Webinar
 - b. 0 – Letters sent out to property owner during the month of February and March.
 - c. 8 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of April
 - i. 4 – have be moved to citation
 - d. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2020
 - e. 0 – Invoices to property owners
 - f. 10 – Invoices for In House work during April totaling \$35,210.00

- i. This work consisted of Varies storms, pruning, and Planting of Mr. Slifko tree at Centre and Windsor.
 - g. 1 – Contractor Invoices for April totaling \$4,063.92
 - i. Barby’s Playground
 - h. 0 – Letters of interest received for the Fall 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
 - a. As of 2/18/2020 the City Clerk’s office states it’s still under review and will follow up.
 - ii. Draft Ordinance review by the Commission handout in May, 2019
 - 1. Commission has asked for more time to review.
 - a. Tabled
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger reports the final minor changes were resubmitted to legal for final review. He notes due to CoVid-19 things are a little behind and expects that once reviewed it will be ready to move to City Council. Mr. Kissinger states he will update the commission once he knows more.
 - b. Memorial Tree for Mr. Slifko
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states a Pink Perkins Yellowwood was planted April 23rd, 2020. He notes a small ceremony was held at Centre Ave and Windsor St. on Arbor Day, April 24th, 2020.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states a larger ceremony will be held in the fall to present a plaque at the memorial site followed by a cocktail hour. He notes additional information and details to follow regarding this event when they become available.
 - c. 908 Rose St.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states no new updates. He notes that all court cases have been postponed due to CoVid-19.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that he and Fred Lachat (City Attorney) where schedule for an Appeal Hearing in the Court of Common Pleas on March 23rd, 2020.

1. He will provide updates at a later time once the courts re-open.

d. Arbor Day 2020

- i. Mr. Kissinger states everything went well. He believes this possible was the largest event since he has been the City Arborist with the most attends in a long time.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states the ceremony was held on Friday, April 24th, 2020 at 1630 hours with the dedication of John's tree and a proclamation.

e. Park Assessments

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments continue to go well. He notes Nolde Pines is currently working at Barbey's playground and should be wrapping up there today, if not tomorrow.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states the next park will be Baer Park.
 - 1. Updates will be provided at next month's meeting.

f. State EAB Treatment Reimbursement

- i. Mr. Kissinger states he requested 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. He has not heard or seen anything coming back yet.
 - a. He states he will check with accounting to see if there was a deposit.

g. Ash Tree Treatment update

- i. Mr. Kissinger states 76 sites are scheduled to be treated. He notes leaf out has occurred late this year pushing back the anticipated treatment dates.
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states he anticipates treatments to begin early June. Further updates at next month meeting.

9. New Business

a. Budget:

- i. Mr. Kissinger note no significant changes to the budget this year. He provides an update to where things stand up to the end of April.

b. Spotted Lantern Fly

- i. Mr. Kissinger states he has not seen or heard about egg masses hatching in our area yet but warns its coming.

- c. Downtown Tree Work
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states nothing new since last month meeting. He notes he did speak with the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and that Aaron Gantz is now leaning more towards a fall / winter project.
 - a. Updates to follow.
- d. Earth Day
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the event was postponed to fall. He believes it currently scheduled for the last Sunday of September. He reminds everyone to keep their calendars free as there will be a table setup for the commission to hand out flyers and promote the importance of planting trees.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states a tree planting will also occur to demonstrate proper planting to the public.
 - a. Additional information to come at a later meeting.
- e. Capital Budget 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the commission has \$100,000 to work with this year. Mr. Kissinger asks for suggestions / ideas on how to utilities the money.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger notes Ash tree removals need to occur. He reminds everyone that the last round of removals occurred in 2017.
 - a. Mr. Reimer agrees stating he see a lot of Ash tree die back.
 - b. Mr. Ryan makes a motion to move forward with conducting Ash Tree Removals. Motion was seconded by Ms. Yevics.
 - i. All in favor. 3Y, 0N
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states he will begin to obtain prices.
 - 2. Mr. Kissinger suggests moving forward with the 5th Street pruning project. He notes this work would be conducted from Canal Street to the top of the 5th Street hill.
 - a. Ms. Yevics and Mr. Ryan agree stating this area could really use it.
 - b. Ms. Yevics makes a motion to move forward with this project. Mr. Ryan seconds the motion.
 - i. All in favor. 3Y, 0N
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states he will begin working on this as well.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continuously works to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. No one had any comments at this time.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2020 at 1800 hours.

- i. Mr. Kissinger asked if everyone was okay with the setup from this evening. Everyone agreed it worked well and was in favor for the same setup at next month's meeting.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Reimer at 1900 hours